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Note by the Secretary-General

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I. Association pour la protection de la nature et de l'environnement de Kairouan (Special; 1997)

I. Introduction

The Association pour la protection de la nature et de l'environnement de Kairouan (APNEK), founded in 1984, focuses mainly on advocacy. It is a non-governmental organization (NGO) that is locally rooted and internationally committed, focusing on the field, the national environment and sustainability. Its vision for NGO action is that development should be ethical and equitable, and its mission includes promoting environmental citizenship and governance through networking, partnership and strategizing. It aims at contributing to environmental protection locally and globally, nationwide and worldwide. It acts through communication campaigns and field projects.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in field and/or at Headquarters

Between 2005 and 2008, APNEK has focused on local, national and Mediterranean outreach and dissemination activities having to do with environmental citizenship and governance such as local Agenda 21 processes, waste management, climate change and elimination of obsolete pesticides.

APNEK attended United Nations-related Mediterranean conferences and seminars as follows: (a) the president of APNEK attended a meeting on the thirtieth anniversary of the Barcelona Convention organized by the United Nations Environment Programme and the Mediterranean Action Plan in June 2005 in Athens, with participants from several Mediterranean countries; (b) 14th meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, Portoroz, Slovenia, in November 2005; (c) the president of APNEK attended a seminar on the legal aspects of the Barcelona Convention and its protocols in Athens in October 2006, organized by UNEP; (d) APNEK's vice-president attended the 12th meeting of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development, in Istanbul, Turkey, in May 2007; (e) 8th meeting of focal points for specially protected areas, in Palermo, Italy, in June 2007; and (f) 15th meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, Almeria, Spain, in January 2008.

2. Charity Foundation for Special Diseases (Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

Charity Foundation for Special Diseases (CFFSD) was established in 1996 to support and assist patients suffering from thalassaemia, haemophilia, renal failure and kidney transplantation and later on also included hepatitis, cancer, diabetes and multiple sclerosis. To achieve these objectives, the Foundation tries to raise public awareness about these diseases for prevention, treatment and care by attracting financial and legal support of Governments for these patients and encouraging public participation for development and equipping of new medical centres for patients with special diseases. During the past four years, three medical centres and a nursery were established by the Foundation, two medical centres in Tehran and one medical centre and the nursery in the city of Bam, Islamic Republic of Iran (demolished by an earthquake in 2004); thus the scope of activities and provision of medical services to infants and thalassaemia, renal failure, diabetes, cancer and kidney transplant patients have been considerably increased.

In order to take care of other therapeutic needs of these patients, various specialized general clinics, laboratories and para-clinical equipment are also being provided. In Villa Special Medical Centre in Tehran, in addition to the above-mentioned services, periodical scientific courses for the public in various fields, including nutrition, exercise, healthy living, insulin injection, are held. A total of 3,500 people have now benefited from these courses. The Genetics Laboratory at this Centre is one of the most advanced laboratories in the country, diagnosing over 150 rare genetic diseases. Various tests for prenatal genetic disease diagnosis are being carried out and several national and foreign Master of Science and Doctorate of Philosophy students are receiving a higher education. In spite of the high costs of these examinations, this Centre provides services to patients at Government-set prices. The Centre has also obtained the Quality Management Certificate for ISO 9001-2000. The establishment of new centres was made possible by contributions from benevolent and non-governmental charity organizations. Governmental assistance during the past four years has also increased by 50 per cent and charitable contributions have risen by 300 per cent during the same years. The Foundation has also established a specialized poly-clinic in the city of Kabul, which will become operational in 2009. The plans for a National Cancer Centre of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as a reference centre for education, prevention, treatment and care of patients living with cancer, have begun and will be completed in three years. This centre will have the capacity to admit and deliver services to 1,000 patients a day. The Foundation, through charitable donations, was able to provide 910 medical centres affiliated with public medical universities across the country with equipment needed for haemodialysis, thalassaemia and haemophilia patients.

With regard to expanded areas of activities, the Foundation has become a full member of the International Federation of Kidney Foundations and the International Society of Blood Transfusion and a board member of the Thalassaemia International Federation, which has an official relationship with the World Health Organization. At the national level, the Foundation works closely with the Research Centre for Endocrinology and Metabolism at Tehran University, the Family Planning

Association of Iran, which is a full member of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, and the Advanced Technology Centre of the Presidential Office.

For health promotion, the Sports Federation for Patients with Special Diseases was established in 2005 with the support of the Foundation and has expanded its activities across the country. This Federation also facilitated the participation of patients with special diseases in world championship tournaments and patients have won several medals in international games.

Since 2005, the Foundation has participated and assisted in setting up 136 exhibitions at the national and international levels, including the Dubai International Humanitarian Aid and Development exhibition held in April 2005 in Dubai, and has benefited from these occasions to promote public awareness on prevention and treatment of special diseases.

Other activities of the Foundation include setting up 23 educational and recreational camping trips for patients with special diseases; producing 20 educational and advocacy movies and clips on special diseases; holding a special film festival; and distribution of over 3 million copies of publications to medical centres, patients and universities.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of United Nations

Representatives have attended the following international conferences related to special diseases: International Federation of Kidney Federations international conference (Curitiba, Brazil, April 2007), International Federation of Kidney Federations international conference (Mainz, Germany, May 2008), European Rare Diseases (Eurodis) international conference (Roskilde, Denmark, May 2008), Thalassaemia International Federation international conference (Singapore, October 2008), European Renal Associations international conference (Stockholm, May 2008), Thalassaemia International Federation international conference (Lisbon, November 2007), International Society of Blood Transfusion international conference (Hanoi, November 2007), International Federation of Kidney Federations international conference (Sicily, Italy, June 2006), and Thalassaemia International Federation, international summer school congress (Anatolia, Turkey, April 2006).

Some conferences and seminars held at the national level related to special diseases are as follows: Dentistry Problems of Thalassaemia Patients, in cooperation with the Thalassaemia International Federation (Tehran, March 2008), New Findings in Treatment of Lung Cancer (Tehran, June 2008), New Findings on Treatment of Diabetes (Tehran, April 2008), Management of Treatment Costs of Patients with Special Disease (Tehran, November 2007), Seminar on Diabetes (Tehran, April 2007), New Findings in Diagnosis and Treatment of Special Diseases (Tehran, November 2006), Cardio-vascular Diseases in Diabetes (Tehran, August 2008), and International Workshop on Advanced Diagnosis on Genetic Diseases (Tehran, March 2007).

A. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The Foundation has carried out the following activities in implementation of the Millennium Development Goals:

Goal 1: Financial assistance provided for treatment of needy cancer, renal failure, kidney transplant, multiple sclerosis, thalassaemia and diabetes patients has been over 116 billion Iranian rials, equivalent to $11.6 million.

Goal 4: A nursery for infants in Bam, Islamic Republic of Iran, who lost their parents during the earthquake has been established and its operation has been transferred to local authorities.

Goal 5: Since 2006, through Villa Special Medical Centre and in cooperation with the Family Planning Association of Iran, the Foundation has provided services in many areas, including premarital counselling, pregnancy and safe delivery counselling, puberty and adolescent health education, emergency contraception counselling and service, promoting physical and mental health during menopause, cancer screening of cancers common in women (breast and uterus), family planning counselling and services and voluntary counselling and testing for HIV. By the end of 2008, 1,500 women had benefited from these services.

Goal 6: Establishment of 3 special medical centres in Tehran and the city of Bam, provision of services for thalassaemia, renal failure, kidney transplant and diabetes to over 60,000 patients, equipping medical centres with 624 haemodialysis machines and provision of over 4,000 beds and other related hospital equipment for dialysis, thalassaemia and haemophilia wards across the country.

In addition, over 1,600,000 books, magazines, posters and brochures on special diseases have been published.

B. Activities in support of global principles

Several advocacy meetings with the head and representatives of Parliament, cabinet ministers and other governmental authorities have been organized on the main problems of patients with special diseases.

Publicity to draw the attention of authorities and the community to the issue of special diseases has been done, through 920 mass media reports and 77 individual interviews by the President of the Foundation with national and international media networks on the occasion of the World Diabetes Day (14 November 2005-2008), International Thalassemia Day (8 May 2005-2008), World Cancer Day (4 February 2005-2008), World Haemophilia Day (17 April 2005-2008) and World Kidney Day (12 March 2005-2008). Several exhibitions have been set up for the relevant days.

Participation of representatives of the Foundation in meetings of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies has not so far taken place because the Foundation concentrates on domestic issues, because it is difficult for Iranians to obtain visas to visit the United States of America and because of scarcity of funds (the Foundation is a charity relying mostly on public donations).

3. Covenant House (Special; 1985)

I. Introduction

The aims of Covenant House are to identify and address the social, psychological and physical problems of the urban poor, especially homeless, runaway and street children and youth, and to increase public awareness of the need for effective facilities to care for young people. Covenant House achieves these aims by providing crisis and transitional residential care and supportive services to more than 75,000 runaway and homeless young people every year. Covenant House has 21 sites throughout the United States of America, Canada, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Services include street outreach, food and shelter, transitional housing, family reintegration, medical and nutritional assistance, job preparation and training, educational support, legal assistance and both substance abuse and mental health counselling. Covenant House also conducts extensive advocacy on behalf of children and child-related issues.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Attendance and participation in major conferences and United Nations meetings

In 2005, the Executive Director of Casa Alianza Guatemala attended the sixty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights and contributed to forums focused on human rights in Guatemala and Latin America.

In 2006, representatives of Covenant House attended the sixty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights and submitted a written statement along with 268 other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on the organization of the work of the Commission. Also in 2006, representatives of Covenant House attended the third session of the World Urban Forum. During the event, a Covenant House youth advocate spoke at a networking session on urban growth and the environment, the theme of which was "On the street, off the street: women, safety and security in urban places".

In 2007, Covenant House attended the fifty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Also in 2007, a Covenant House representative attended meetings of the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) in Vienna, and the Senior Vice President for Program Development served as Chair of the Campaign for United States Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and spoke at the Georgetown University National Symposium on the Convention on the Rights of the Child in June in Washington, D.C. and at the Colloquium on the Convention on the Rights of the Child in November.

In 2008, Covenant House attended the eighth session of the Human Rights Council and contributed to forums focused on human rights issues in North and Central America. In September 2008, Covenant House contributed to the review of the implementation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or

Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Working with the Government and non-governmental organizations in Honduras, Covenant House prepared a report for the Committee against Torture reviewing progress by Honduras in guaranteeing full enjoyment of human rights for its population, especially progress on the elimination of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies

From 2005 to 2008, Covenant House served on the NGO Committee on the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and served as Chair of that Committee for two of the four years. In addition, in January 2008, Covenant House collaborated with the independent expert responsible for the United Nations study on violence against children and in the editing of the report on the state of Latin American and Caribbean children. In August 2008, Covenant House collaborated with UNICEF, the Attorney General's Office of Guatemala and other governmental organizations in Guatemala to prepare a draft law that develops a system for assisting and protecting the victims of sexual trafficking, violence and exploitation in Guatemala, which was presented to Congress.

Initiatives in support of the Millennium Development Goals

Covenant House has carried out the following activities to implement the Millennium Development Goals:

Goal 1, targets 1 and 2: Covenant House works to empower homeless youth to lead healthy, happy and productive lives by offering them education, job training, job placement, family and individual social work and counselling, and other services. Especially in Latin America, where the vast majority of young people served by Covenant House experience extreme poverty, Covenant House aims to arm homeless young people with both job training and a reliable social network and personal skills that will enable them to gain employment and rise above a life of poverty. In 2008 alone, Covenant House helped over 70,000 homeless young people at facilities in cities throughout North and Central America.

Goal 2, target 1: Covenant House recognizes the importance of education in helping young people rise out of poverty and therefore works to get children off the streets and into school, to bring children who are behind in their schooling up to the appropriate grade level, and to support young people to stay in school for a longer period of time. Covenant House advocates to and works with national Governments to achieve changes in legislation and ultimately increase the accountability of Governments for the care of children who are currently underserved by them.

Goal 4, target 1: Covenant House supports young mothers and their vulnerable children through mother and child programmes in North and Central America, offering residential programmes, pre- and post-natal health care and counselling, and family reintegration counselling. In 2006 alone, 938 young mothers and 1,050 babies were provided food, clothing, shelter and medical care by Covenant House.

Goal 5, target 1: The focus of Covenant House's mother and child programmes in North and Central America is always to teach the mothers, some as young as

11 years old, to care properly for their children and to ensure that they make the healthiest choices possible for themselves and their children. Target 2: Covenant House focuses on bringing reproductive health care and education to the young people it serves, many of whom are uninformed about reproductive health care and the dangers of ignoring it. Covenant House offers programmes such as one that provides education about sexual health to street children in Mexico City, especially through a crisis hotline, which receives about 3,000 calls per year concerning sexuality, HIV/AIDS and other sexual health topics.

Goal 6, target 1: Covenant House runs a variety of HIV/AIDS prevention programmes, offers HIV/AIDS education through its crisis hotlines, and provides continuous care and counselling to young people infected with HIV in North and Central America. All of these efforts are aimed at preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS among homeless young people, who are especially vulnerable to poor health conditions.

Goal 7, target 4: Covenant House serves many children who are current or former slum-dwellers, especially in Central America, and maintains the objective of helping them to work towards a life outside the slums. Covenant House provides education, job training, job placement and other services that empower homeless young people to be employed and lead stable, productive lives outside the slums.

Goal 8, target 1: Covenant House prides itself on being a responsible organization and setting an example for its civil society peers by being transparent, promoting quality governance and fulfilling the mission of serving the suffering children of the street, a mission that is inherently tied to poverty reduction. Target 6: Covenant House has developed many new partnerships with members of the private sector in order to bring technology to its programmes in both North and Central America. Covenant House believes that amplifying the world views of the young people it serves and providing them with a mirror into their futures through the use of new technologies is critical to the mission of poverty reduction.

4. Federation of Cuban Women (Special; 1997)

I. Introduction

The main objectives of the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) are: to struggle for the full incorporation, participation and promotion of women in the economic, political, social and cultural spheres of Cuba so that they may live under conditions of equal rights and opportunity; to strengthen the equality of women within the family unit, and to promote the development of non-sexist education in the family, school and society to prevent sexist stereotypes. The areas of activity include promoting women in decision-making, employment, social and community work, environmental work, education, health and training, as well as working with rural women and combating violence against women. The membership has increased since 2005 to over 4,197,134 affiliated women, representing over the 87.7 per cent of all women over 14 years of age, organized into 77,106 grass-roots organizations. The Foundation is self-sufficient in national and foreign currency, with no substantial changes in its sources for funding. It is affiliated with some international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including the Women's International Democratic Federation, the International Council on Social Welfare and the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO).

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The Federation participates as much as possible, in accordance with its available funds and resources, in women's forums of the Economic and Social Council commissions, mainly the Commission on the Status of Women, and the Human Rights Council, attending the annual sessions of both bodies. Since the creation of the Council, the Federation has increased its participation, working together with other national NGOs, for example in the national coordination of the World March of Women so as to promote and implement the international actions of the World March to the benefit of Cuban women.

Representatives of the Federation have attended the NGO forum at the Commission on the Status of Women at its fiftieth to fifty-third sessions (2006-2009). The Federation has participated in an average of more than 10 seminars, workshops, conferences and meetings annually, presenting written and oral contributions that have enriched debates on various issues, particularly those related to the Beijing Platform for Action such as equal participation of women and men in decision-making positions, enhanced participation of women in development, discrimination against girls, financing and women's empowerment, and the sharing of responsibilities between women and men within the home. In March 2009, the Federation joined with the Women's International Democratic Federation to hold a

parallel event entitled "International solidarity for peace and justice: women's access to work and their full emancipation".

In the fourth, seventh, ninth and eleventh sessions of the Human Rights Council (2007-2009), the representatives of the Federation made statements on women's issues, including health, employment, human rights, international solidarity, the gender perspective, the rights to self-determination and development, economic, social and cultural rights, civil and political rights, the rights of the Palestinian people, and the adoption of the universal periodic reports of Cuba and China. It also submitted written statements to the annual sessions in English and Spanish, with a special emphasis on items related to women and children's rights.

In 2006, during consideration of the combined fifth and sixth report of Cuba to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, a representative of the Federation made an oral presentation about the role of the Federation in the advancement of women in Cuba, and its challenges and goals for the future.

The Federation actively participated in the NGO forum of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean during the tenth regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Quito, 2007) and in the drafting and negotiation of the final document adopted in the forum for presentation to the Conference as a contribution from civil society. The Federation made a substantive contribution on agenda issues during the debates.

The Federation is an active member of CONGO. A representative of the Federation participated in the twenty-third CONGO General Assembly in December 2007, and contributed to the CONGO Newsletter with the article entitled, "CONGO: which paths to follow?" The Federation also submitted two written statements, on "Gender equality and gender justice" and "Poverty eradication".

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The Federation has maintained relations with various United Nations bodies and has submitted more than 25 contributions and statements, including written statements in relation to the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 2008, a questionnaire as part of the consultation process of the Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council on education and human rights issues, Human Rights Council resolution 7/3 on the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights, the Economic and Social Council annual ministerial review, on the impact in the public health system, especially on Cuban women, of the economic, financial and commercial blockade imposed on Cuba by the Government of the United States, the adoption of the universal periodic review of Cuba, and to assist in the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Fact-finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict.

Representatives of the Federation participated in the thirty-third conference of the International Council of Social Welfare (France, 2008) and in the Women's International Democratic Federation fourteenth World Conference (Caracas, 2007). The Federation of Cuban Women is an active member of the Executive Committee of the Women's International Democratic Federation and coordinates the Regional Office for America and the Caribbean. The Federation of Cuban Women is affiliated

with other important international and regional organizations, such as the World March of Women, and the Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action and collaborates closely with other organizations such as the Association of Women in Development.

The Federation contributed to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals by providing inputs to the Government of Cuba for the national reports for Cairo+15 and Beijing+15, drawing on its experience in community work and in promoting a gender approach, and its knowledge of the condition of Cuban women.

In the past four years, the Federation has developed two major programmes jointly with the Government of Cuba and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (prevention of HIV/AIDS and combating tuberculosis). Working with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Federation has designed and developed training courses and printed materials about struggling against sexist stereotypes.

The Federation has also developed a project with the World Food Programme to combat anaemia in pregnant women and children in eastern Cuba, which distributes supplies and provides information on iron-fortified food.

Over 40 guidance houses on women and the family have been created for women, families and children in collaboration with Belgium. The guidance houses belong to the Federation and are part of its work in each municipality providing guidance, advice and training in issues such as health, combating violence, education and the law and working in the community and with families and schools. The programmes are prepared by the Federation and assistance from Belgium provides training materials, equipment and improvement in the conditions in areas where the houses are located.

UNDP Havana worked with the Federation in organizing events to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women in 2008, in relation to which the Federation also organized seminars, workshops, training programmes and national activities.

5. International Council of Management Consulting Institutes (Special; 2001)

I. Introduction

The International Council of Management Consulting Institutes (ICMCI) has contributed in important ways to furthering the development aims of the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations at large and is pleased to file the present quadrennial review in order to make its support of the United Nations more widely known to Member States and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The Council is the global voice of the profession of management consulting and the highest body of national management consulting institutes from over 45 countries worldwide. These national institutes administer, in accordance with world-class standards, codes of ethical and professional conduct and the common body of knowledge, the internationally recognized Certified Management Consultant designation earned by individual management consultants and the Accredited Consulting Practice designation earned by consulting firms. To participate in the Council, individual consultants and consulting firms must be a member of their country's sanctioned institute (or if none exists, then of another country in the region).

In partnership with its member institutes, the mission of the Council is to elevate the standards of management consultants worldwide and to provide confidence in the competency and professionalism of certified management consultants. The mission is also to support the creation and development of national professional institutes worldwide and encourage information-sharing, networking and reciprocity between institutes.

The Council was founded in 1987 and spread rapidly across the globe. In 2009, the Council had member institutes in over 45 countries. Each national institute must promote and implement the Council's standards among its members through training and certification, with a rigorous quality assurance procedure being implemented by the Council.

As part of the means to achieve its objectives, the Council is involved with external international bodies. It works with European Committee for Standardization to enhance development of professional standards and with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to promote and train consultants in Central Asian countries and to encourage the creation of national institutes.

The Council has observer status with the International Accreditation Forum and has recently established a relationship with the International Labour Organization, in addition to its existing association with the United Nations.

In 2001, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the Council's practice of sending highly qualified and experienced Certified Management Consultants to countries with less developed economies to train, coach and mentor local management consultants and fledgling institutes in the fundamentals of consulting and in networking with other institutes in their region and around the world.

Since 2001, the Council has increased its membership by 19, including in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, China, Kazakhstan, Latvia, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey,

Uzbekistan, and, more recently, the Islamic Republic of Iran. The secretariat was moved in 2006 from San Francisco, United States of America, to Nijkerk, the Netherlands. The Council has continued to spread its message of professional, quality and ethical management. The annual meetings have often been in less economically privileged locations or countries with fledgling professional institutes. Since 2001, international meetings have been held in Turkey, China, the Russian Federation, Barbados and Singapore. Future meetings are planned in Jordan, Taiwan Province of China, Thailand, Romania and Brazil.

In 2004, the Council adopted the following mission for its involvement as a special status non-governmental organization: "ICMCI will strive to establish professional management consulting institutes in developing economies and will work with other non-governmental organizations to assist them to understand how the use of qualified indigenous management consultants could assist them to achieve their goals for leadership, change management and development in the economy." The emphasis has been on practical achievement, either directly or by influencing others.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

In 2006, the Council designated two representatives based in the United States of America to work with the United Nations. For the past three years, these individuals have attended selected Economic and Social Council and World Bank meetings to acquire a comprehensive understanding of these bodies and to seek collaborative ventures.

Commission on Science and Technology for Development

The Commission on Science and Technology for Development held a panel meeting in Paris in November 2006 on "Promoting the building of a people-centred, development-oriented and inclusive information society, with a view to enhancing digital opportunities for all people" following the World Summit on Information Society in Tunis in 2005. Building on its extensive experience worldwide, the Council emphasized that a balanced investment in three areas needed to be guaranteed in any development project using technology: technology, process and people, with the latter covering skills, training, organization, cultural issues and values. Investing in only one or two facets will inevitably lead to failure and waste of the investment.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The Council prepared a paper entitled, "ICMCI success story: ICMCI provides a blueprint for establishing self-help in emerging economies and the efficient use of development funds" in response to a request for success stories in support of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, and was invited by the

Economic and Social Council to present the paper at the high-level substantive session of the Council in July 2007.

Response to the Annual Ministerial Review in 2007 on innovation in the reduction of poverty and starvation

A special task force within the Council prepared a paper, entitled "Improving outcomes from development funding using indigenous management consultants" with the following messages:

(a) Competent indigenous management consultants improve the efficacy, effectiveness and efficiency of development-funded projects and increase the capability and capacity of the economy of any developing country, both of which increase the likelihood of alleviating starvation and poverty;

(b) The core competence of ICMCI is in establishing and running national professional bodies, and its mission is to build national institutes of management consultancy in developing countries, a mission which directly supports the position of indigenous management consultants. Emphasis is placed on:

(i) The entire development project — all aspects from conception to implementation — with a focus on achievement (efficacy), outcomes for the developing economy (effectiveness) and value for money (efficiency);

(ii) The culture and indigenous background of professionals within the developing countries;

(iii) The competence of the qualified management consultant as a key selection criteria;

(iv) ICMCI as a catalyst for establishing a national professional body and more competent indigenous qualified management consultants;

(v) The importance of other professions for effective development in a parallel manner.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Several national member institutes have been involved in local activities that are in line with the Millennium Development Goals. For example, the Institute of Management Consultants Bangladesh undertook the "Greenhouse gas emission reduction from industry in Asia and the Pacific" project for the United Nations Environment Programme, involving nine programmes in Bangladesh between 2002 and 2005. Funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the project provided consulting and technical support to five industries (pulp and paper, ceramic, cement, fertilizer and iron and steel) introducing cleaner production and energy efficient tools and techniques.

D. Activities in line with World Bank objectives

The Council believes that its contribution to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the objectives of the World Bank relates to the establishment of a competent indigenous management consultancy profession in many countries,

thereby increasing the capacity and the capability of domestic economies. The emphasis on professional ethics and governance is used as an example in many developing economies.

E. Working in partnership with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

The paper prepared for the Economic and Social Council 2007 annual ministerial review was forwarded to the TurnAround Management and Business Advisory Services Programme of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) through the World Bank. The Programme aims at enhancing the business environment, especially for small- and medium-sized enterprises in countries with economies in transition. The strategy of the Programme is in line with ICMCI's objectives and uses the Certified Management Consultation qualification to enhance business-support professions in these countries.

F. Working with the International Labour Organization

The Council held discussions with the International Labour Organization offices in Turin and Geneva for a training programme for consultants in Africa and South America.

6. Lebanese Association for Popular Action (Special; 2001)

I. Introduction

The Lebanese Association for Popular Action's vision for a sustainable and durable development is based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Millennium Development Goals. The Association believes that the sustainable development of Lebanese society is intrinsically linked with respect for and implementation of human, economic, social and political rights and that it can only be achieved through commitment, action and solidarity. This principle also implies solidarity and commitment on behalf of the international community, mutual respect and as fair North-South partnership.

Sustainable development can only be an efficient and viable process to empower underprivileged women and men if it provides them with the means in order to improve their living conditions. That is why it is a complex process that can only operate in the long term, integrating economic, social and environmental dimensions and the principle of good governance. Gender equality, the participation of young people in community life and promotion of human rights are core values and themes as well as essential conditions to attain sustainable development and reach the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals.

The objectives of the Association are to: (a) promote the human rights of the disadvantaged in Lebanon; (b) contribute in building a strong and responsible civil society in order to promote civic values and social justice; (c) provide assistance to all the people (health, education, psychosocial support, etc.); and (d) promote equality.

Thanks to its long experience in the field, the Association is extremely knowledgeable about the needs of local communities and intends to develop its advocacy initiatives in pursuit of a vision of positive social change. It has an excellent reputation for its independence and commitment to the people in need, and collaborates with many local and international institutions. Indeed, cooperation and coordination with other organizations are strong principles according to which the Association plans and programmes its activities.

While the Association's aims and purpose have remained the same, it has expanded its activities to include child protection and social support to refugees. Since July 2007, the Association has opened three centres for refugees (initially refugees from Iraq) in the southern suburbs of Beirut. The child protection initiatives mainly started after the July/August 2006 Israeli invasion in Lebanon, in order to provide psychosocial support to the children affected by the war. It was quickly expanded to prevention of child labour and domestic violence.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

In 2008, representatives of the Association attended the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Global Humanitarian Platform workshop in Amman, organized by the International Council of Voluntary Agencies and funded by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, the consolidated appeals process conference for Iraq organized by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Amman, emergency relief training organized by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Sweden, and the international observation of the thirtieth anniversary of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The Association has participated in the following: (a) project on "Rehabilitation and reintegration of former detainees in south Lebanon", funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (February 2005-August 2006); (b) project on "Training and technical support to psychosocial staff, teachers and families and self-help workshops for adolescents", funded by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and implemented in partnership with the Italian non-governmental organization Movimondo (January 2007-January 2008); (c) project funded by the International Labour Organization to prevent child labour among Iraqi refugees (August 2007-January 2008); (d) project funded by the World Health Organization to provide sensitization on breast cancer in south Lebanon (November 2007-February 2008); (e) project funded by UNDP to provide free vocational training for young people in car mechanics (March 2008-July 2008); (f) project on "Promoting access to health care in Lebanon: prevention, sensitization, and early warning system building", funded by UNICEF (November 2007-January 2009); (g) project on "Child protection and social support for Iraqi refugees", aimed at improving well-being through providing access to non-formal educational skills and recreational activities, funded by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (July 2007-present).

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The Association has carried out the following activities in implementation of the Millennium Development Goals:

Goal 2, target 1: The Association has conducted 712 vocational training events, literacy classes, remedial courses and study support.

Goal 3, target 1: The Association has conducted 712 vocational training events, psychosocial activities, 705 children and women's clubs and 320 rural cooperatives for women.

Goal 4, target 1: The Association has provided 18,597 vaccinations and 3,312 sensitization sessions on mother and child health.

Goal 5, target 2: The Association has provided 4,086 gynaecological consultations and 3,816 echography tests and distributed vitamins for pregnant women.

Goal 6, target 3: The Association has provided 94,219 primary health-care services (general practitioners and specialists and X-rays and other examinations) distributed 39,798 medicines, conducted 1,051 sensitization sessions and screening for osteoporosis and 312 screenings for breast cancer (mammography).

D. Activities in support of global principles

The Association participated in World Refugee Day in June 2008 to advocate about the rights of this vulnerable population. Since Lebanon suffers from deep political and religious divisions, among other things the Association implements many programmes for human rights and civic promotion, using a peer-to-peer methodology. Leaders are chosen among the community to spread positive civic and democratic values, and to inform people about their rights.

The Association did not participate as much as it could have in major conferences of the Economic and Social Council or other United Nations meetings because of the high cost of transportation. The Association has, as a principle, set aside its funds exclusively for the beneficiaries in the field. Thus, it normally participates in conferences and workshops when the travel and accommodation costs are funded by the organizers or by a sponsor.

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Note by the Secretary-General

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1. League of Kenya Women Voters

Special, 2001

I. Introduction

The League of Kenya Women Voters is a non-partisan political women's membership organization founded in 1992 by a voluntary group of like-minded Kenyan women to advance the rights of women in elective political leadership and other decision-making positions. The League is a non-governmental membership organization registered as an association under the Societies Act, Cap 108 Laws of Kenya.

Mission: to work together with others to promote women's active, free and equal participation in politics and public affairs through the electoral process as voters and leaders.

Vision: a democratic society in Kenya where women are adequately and effectively empowered and are recognized equally as men in their political, social and economical contributions.

The constitution of the League sets out the organizational objectives, criteria for membership, the structure of the board and the day-to-day running of the organization. It also provides for the election of the council, which is in charge of the overall management directions of the organization.

Objectives: The objectives are to: (a) create a place where women of any race, class, creed, age or educational background are encouraged to participate in politics; (b) sensitize society on gender-related issues, especially cultural practices that hinder women's development; (c) enhance confidence and self-esteem in women as leaders and decision-making and to encourage women to vie for all leadership positions in political, economic, religious, social and cultural spheres; (d) impart literacy and awareness on human rights and to eliminate civic inertia among women; (e) identify and assist potential women candidates for elective posts by enabling them to build their capacity; (f) lobby for amendments on legislation that discriminate against women; (g) inform and educate women on matters of national importance and their indispensable leadership role; (h) empower women so as to increase their participation on an equal basis with male counterparts in the political process and use it to solve problems they face as a community.

Programmes: the League's activities are carried out under four programmes: (a) Electoral and Women Leadership Programme: this programme mobilizes, identifies and works with women leaders in capacity-building, political party dialogue and other gender governance initiatives in order to create public demand for women's leadership in Kenya; (b) Governance and Human Rights Programme: this programme works to ensure that national legislation and state policies are responsive to the needs of women. It also monitors the implementation and ratified international human rights agreements; (c) Communication, Research and Gender Advocacy Programme: this programme builds relevant research and documentation to support and improve women's leadership capacities. It also provides a forum to disseminate information to the public on issues around women and leadership, and at that same time providing a platform to enhance the League's image; (d) Economic

Empowerment Programme: this programme empowers women economically to pursue democratic ideals.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Since the 1992 multi-party general elections in Kenya, the democratization process has brought a number of positive developments for empowerment of women in Kenya. The League of Kenya Women Voters (LKWV) has participated in lobbying many of its women appointments to key policy-making positions.

After the 2002 general elections, the Chairperson of LKWV, Hon. Martha Karua, was appointed the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs. LKWV supported over 100 women candidates in both parliamentary and civic elections in Kenya. Ten women were elected to Parliament, eight women were nominated and more than 30 women were elected to local authority councils as councillors and mayors. LKWV, with the assistance of the United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM), through the Gender and Governance Programme II, has carried out a voter education programme with a strategy campaigning for women, including supporting a team that campaigned for women candidates irrespective of their party affiliations. In 2003, one of our Board Members, Hon. Justice Martha Koome, was appointed Judge of the High Court of Kenya. Another Board Member, Hon. Dr. Julia A. Ojiambo, was nominated to Parliament. Besides the above high-profile appointments, we lobbied for a number of women who were appointed to several senior positions in the government. With support from UNIFEM, LKWV sent five women to the meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women with several of our members. In 2004, we continued with our activities of highlighting the many discriminatory laws and practices that legitimize the subordination of women. We lobbied Parliament to pass the women and sexual offences bill that enhanced sentences for sex offenders.

In 2005, with the support of UNIFEM and other development partners, LKWV embarked on a country-wide exercise of identifying capable women candidates for the 2007 general elections in Kenya with an intensified civic and voter education programme throughout the country. LKWV has embraced the spirit of solidarity and cooperation with other women in Kenya to strengthen women's movement both in Kenya and internationally. LKWV has taken into consideration that women in Kenya head most households, the majority being poor. With the support of the government, we embarked on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We are working on areas of poverty reduction, income generation and employment creation, and agriculture. Women are the principal farmers in Kenya; hence, they are the backbone of Kenya's economy, and yet very few own land. LKWV is involved in the land policy to safeguard the interests of women. Owing to the fact that the majority of Kenyan women do not own land, their access to loan facilities is made impossible because they don't have any collateral.

We are glad to report that with support from the United Nations Development Programme, LKWV started a savings and credit society to enable our members to borrow money to start up income-generating activities. This is part of our MDGs programme of activities. LKWV is also training women on reproductive health issues, HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, as well as how to effectively lower the child mortality rate. LKWV is especially involved in providing its members and

communities in general with knowledge and skills on preventive interventions to protect them from HIV/AIDS infections through safe sex.

Each and every day women and girls are abused, beaten, and raped/defiled. Violence against women takes place at home, in learning institutions, at work, and within the communities. To end gender-based and sexual violence, LKWV has put in place a paralegal programme to support law enforcement. The majority of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Kenya after the 2007 general elections have been women and children. The minister in charge of IDPs is a woman (Ministry for Special Programmes); LKWV is keenly following the resettlement of the IDPs in the country.

Since 2003, we have continuously worked on the Beijing Platform for Action by carrying out a programme called "Bringing Beijing Home".

Currently, LKWV is involved in the constitution drafting process in Kenya in order to safeguard the gains of women in the draft constitution. As the majority of Kenyan women know very little about the constitution or the constitution-making process, LKWV will be engaged in an intensive civic education programme on the draft constitution, starting in February 2010, in preparation for a referendum vote that will be carried out countrywide. In January 2009, Mrs. Alice Muthoni Wahome was elected the Chairperson of LKWV. She is a senior counsellor (lawyer) in Kenya and is currently working with the Committee of Experts on the new constitution in Kenya.

Achievements: In 2004, the Government of Kenya put in place a permanent Gender Commission to look into the affairs of women, of which LKWV is a member. The Government of Kenya, responding to CEDAW requirements with MDG programmes and affirmative action of women education, lowered the entry points (marks) for female students applying for university.

2. National Tropical Botanical Garden

Special, 1997

I. Introduction

The National Tropical Botanical Garden (NTBG) aims to enrich life through discovery, scientific research, conservation and education by perpetuating the survival of plants, ecosystems and cultural knowledge of tropical regions. Through its network of botanical gardens, state-of-the-art research and horticulture complexes, and living and resource collections, the organization's purposes are to: (a) establish, develop, operate and maintain an educational and scientific centre with libraries, herbaria, laboratories and museums to encourage and conduct research in basic and applied tropical botany; (b) foster and encourage fundamental research in tropical plant life and study the uses of tropical flora in agriculture, forestry, horticulture, medicine and other sciences; (c) share knowledge acquired relative to basic and applied tropical botany through publications and other media; (d) collect and cultivate tropical flora and to preserve species of tropical plant life threatened with extinction; and (e) provide a facility which contributes to education, instruction, and recreation.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization did not participate in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, in major conferences or other United Nations meetings during the reporting period because it focused its activities on the development and implementation of programmes on native plant conservation, ecosystem restoration, and educational programmes for underserved youth, working primarily with governmental and local organizations in Hawai'i. The organization would have performed much better in the implementation of United Nations programmes if not for the following problems, which are ongoing: scarce funds and few representative staff make attendance at international meetings very difficult.

While NTBG staff and programmes had little direct activity with United Nations programmes from 2005 to 2008, activities supporting and enhancing areas related to our ECOSOC Special Consultative Status included presentations and expeditions and hosting an Ethnobotany Summit in 2007, involving NGOs and other participants, focused on NTBG's participation and support of global activities to promote cultural/ethno-botanical knowledge. The major outcome of this summit was the "Kaua'i Declaration: Ethnobotany, the Science of Survival", published in the journal *Economic Botany* (2007).

The Director of the Breadfruit Institute collaborated in the organization of and spoke on conserving traditional varieties of economic plants and direct marketing and value-added strategies for agroforestry at the Trees for Improving Profitability, Sustainability, and Resource Management on Farms and Ranches Workshop (2006, Hagatna, Guam and Koror, Palau); in situ conservation of breadfruit in the Pacific Islands and promoting the conservation and sustainable use of breadfruit at the Society for Economic Botany Annual Meeting (June 2006, Thailand); and breadfruit

diversity, conservation, and potential, keynote address, at the First International Symposium on Breadfruit Research and Development (2007, Nadi, Fiji); and exploring the global potential of a traditional Pacific crop for food security, agroforestry, and sustainable agriculture at Botany 2008 (2008, Canada).

The Director of the Breadfruit Institute performed fieldwork in the Federated States of Micronesia to document breadfruit diversity, ethnobotanical and cultural practices (2005); The First International Symposium on Breadfruit Research and Development (2007, Fiji), was organized/sponsored by the Breadfruit Institute, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Land Resources Division, and European Union-Africa, Caribbean, Pacific Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation (CTA), with financial assistance provided by International Centre for Underutilised Crops, Global Facilitation Unit for Underutilized Species, Global Crop Diversity Trust, and German Agency for Technical Cooperation. The Pacific Agricultural Genetic Resources Network Symposium was held to review progress on breadfruit research, analyse needs and priorities, develop strategies for conservation of breadfruit genetic resources, prioritize needed work in breadfruit research and development, and explore news ways to use breadfruit diversity and improve breadfruit production. Outcomes included 36 recommendations with the major recommendation acknowledging that the breadfruit collection and the work of NTBG make a significant contribution globally to breadfruit conservation, research and development. The Symposium stimulated international collaboration, information exchange and networking on breadfruit and the proceedings for this Symposium were published in 2007 by the International Society for Horticultural Science as *Acta Horticulturae 757*.

Activities supporting GSPC target ii included: (a) since 2004, the Conservation Department at NTBG has grown from four personnel to over 20, and spawned a second department named Living Collections and Horticulture. Conservation at NTBG has: (a) spearheaded the development of the most comprehensive programme for monitoring rare native plants in the Hawai'ian Islands; (b) our collectors have discovered over 30 new species here, and many more in the islands of the South Pacific, and also relocated many species historically collected but believed extinct; (c) innovative large-scale conservation has been a key focus at NTBG between 2004-2008, as NTBG's conservationists geared up for the increasing challenges of climate change, encroaching development, and biological invasion in Hawai'i and elsewhere in the tropics; (d) using techniques broadly defined under the rubric of *inter situ* conservation, NTBG has developed that fertile ground between classic in situ and ex situ techniques; (e) by cropping large quantities of suitable seeds, we are reintroducing appropriate native plants to the ecologically restored 117 hectare offshore islet of Lehua, near Ni'ihau; (f) in the Upper Limahuli Preserve, a remote hanging valley owned entirely by NTBG, we have built an 8 km ungulate-proof fence around one of the most pristine habitats remaining on Kaua'i, featuring at least 34 at-risk plant species and 13 federally listed endangered species, while simultaneously providing nesting habitat for highly endangered sea birds.

Activities supporting GSPC target iii included: (a) the Breadfruit Institute worked with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the Global Crop Diversity Trust to develop a global breadfruit conservation strategy (2007); (b) formed a collaborative research team with the University of British Columbia Okanagan and the University of Guelph to develop in vitro propagation methods to facilitate long-term conservation of breadfruit genetic resources and distribute varieties globally

for food security, identify varieties with salinity tolerance, conduct detailed nutritional analyses to identify nutrient-rich varieties and ones with potential for value-added products such as flour (2004-2008); (c) tested inexpensive methods to process breadfruit into flour with US-based NGO Compatible Technology International and University of St. Thomas, Minnesota (2008); partnered with US-based NGO, Sustainable Harvest International, to distribute selected breadfruit varieties to subsistence farmers in Honduras; 365 plants were distributed to 31 families in five communities (2007).

Activities supporting GSPC target vi included: (a) collaborative affiliations between NTBG and the New York Botanical Garden between 2004 and 2008 focused on botanical exploration of various islands in Micronesia, including Pohnpei and Kosrae in the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Belau; (b) a survey and assessment of the invasive species of Belau was conducted in 2008 in collaboration with the US Forest Service and Government of Belau; (c) collaborative partnerships were developed with the Belau National Museum, Government of Belau, Conservation Society of Pohnpei, and the Conservation and Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organization.

Activities supporting GSPC target x included: (a) NTBG's Limahuli Garden's plan and execution to clear invasive species, replanting with native plants and Kahanu eradication of invasive species in native Hala forest (2003); (b) NTBG's establishment of an Integrated Pest Management Programme (2004); and hosting the 2004 Conservation Summit (see part II above); (c) NTBG also entered into a benefit-sharing agreement with the Government of Samoa via a Memorandum of Understanding (2008). NTBG will return to the Government of Samoa 50 per cent of the net licensing fees it receives for every plant of a Samoan breadfruit variety from the NTBG breadfruit collection that is sold and distributed through a commercial horticultural company.

Activities supporting GSPC target xiv included: (a) NTBG's Project Stewardship Programme actively engages children in conservation efforts (2002); (b) expansion of NTBG's tour programme, materials, lectures, etc., for public (local and global) education to include protecting ecosystems information; and initiation of a programme to train K-12 teachers to link cultural and traditional plant knowledge (2004).

3. Network of Women's Non-governmental Organizations in the Islamic Republic of Iran

Special, 1999

I. Introduction

Network of Women's Non-governmental Organizations in the Islamic Republic of Iran (CNWT) is the only official network of NGOs in Iran. It started its activity in 1995 and today has more that 900 NGO members from all over the country. It has had consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations since 1999. The network, according to its charter, has a president, a vice-president, a chief executive, treasurer and a secretary. Its Central Council consists of 15 official members, five alternative members and two inspectors who manage the network's affairs. The powers of the Central Council have been assigned to the president/chief executive of the network. The Central Council has obtained its powers from the General Assembly of the network. It makes decisions regarding the policies, and the President of the Council takes action. The network allocates its income through collecting membership fees and rarely through research and educational projects and contracts offered by private institutes.

Aims of the organization: (a) Exchange information and experiences and develop communication among members of the network and national and international organizations, within the framework of the rules of the Constitutional Law of the Islamic Republic of Iran; (b) defend women's rights and dignity and the status of women in the family and society; (c) promote cultural, artistic, social and economics activities of women in society; (d) increase the role of women in different social fields in order to remove and waive gender prejudices; (e) make the society aware of the rights of women; (f) give advice, make presentations to decision makers and institutes for the purpose of removing legal and executive obstacles to the empowerment of women; (g) create coordination between activities of women's NGOs of I.R.I. in the areas of administration and research in order to attain the aims of the network and its members; and (h) administer education and research in order to attain the network's objectives.

The network promotes activities on the basis of educational and research statistics and exchanges experiences and information among women NGOs at domestic, national, regional and international levels. The CNWN activities according to the nature and goals of the NGOs: (a) education and research NGOs; (b) communication and mass media; (c) human rights organizations; (d) cultural and social organizations; (e) health organizations; (f) charity organizations; (g) scientific and professional organizations; (h) religious minority organizations (Zoroastrian, Jewish, Christian); (i) organizations for the handicapped; and (j) information technology organizations.

CNWN members: age 18-70; education: high school diploma to doctoral degree, Muslims and non-Muslims.

Important activities include: (a) obtaining permanent observer status in the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC); (b) presenting three national reports emphasizing the role of women in the international assemblies and presenting experts in the field of women's issues; (c) approving statistics on people-oriented

organization by the Higher Council of Statistics; (d) publishing a journal on women's issues; (e) designing a Masters Degree Programme on non-governmental management approved and executed by the Islamic Azad University; (f) establishing specialty libraries on NGO resources; (g) cooperation in providing people-oriented organization laws to be presented to Parliament; (h) organizing one general assembly and two annual assemblies; (i) organizing workshops in different provinces of the country on 12 critical women's issues; (j) increasing CNWN members from 550 women NGOs (in 2004) to 924 NGOs today; (k) maintaining a network website; (l) expanding CNWN activities and memberships all over the country; (m) presenting a project to create almost 100,000 jobs per year to the Ministry of Work and the Ministry of Information Technology; (n) conducting administrative research on women's issues, marriage and family in Iran; (o) establishing a people-oriented faction in the parliament; (p) participating in United Nations meetings and conferences: CNWN members have been very active in participating in the international meetings and sessions organized by the United Nations all over the world, including in New York in celebration of the International Women's Day in March 2005, 2006 and 2007; members participated in the international women's human rights committees in Bangkok in 2006, in the Durban Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in 2001, and in the Human Rights Commission Council in Geneva in the period 2005-2008.

4. Project Concern International

Special, 1993

I. Introduction

Aims and purpose of the organization: Motivated by our concern for the world's most vulnerable children, families and communities, Project Concern International (PCI) envisions a world where abundant resources are shared, communities are able to provide for the health and well-being of their members, and children and families can achieve lives of hope, good health and self-sufficiency. The mission is to prevent disease, improve community health and promote sustainable development. PCI currently operates in the following 15 countries: Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Botswana, South Africa, India, Indonesia, Bolivia, El Salvador, United States of America, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru. PCI's work will be distinguished by the following operating principles: accountability, integration, capacity-building and responsiveness. PCI's core values are: we value health as a basic human right, we promote equitable access, we work as partners, we require integrity, we celebrate diversity, we promote gender equality, we support community self-determination, we expect breakthroughs, we take action, and we believe that people are our organization.

Significant changes in the organization: In 2003-2004, PCI underwent an intensive strategic planning process that resulted in a new organizational strategic plan, as well as country- and department-specific operating plans for 2004-2009. The organization's vision, mission, operating principles, core values and strategic priorities were completely redone, utilizing an organization-wide process of strategic planning, environmental scanning and direction setting.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities: The organization's representatives participated in the following: (a) the World AIDS Conferences (Canada, 2006, Mexico, 2008); (b) co-facilitated the UNICEF and the WFP Technical Consultation on Food Security, Nutrition and Children Affected by HIV and AIDS (Italy, 2007) and participated in the development of a Consensus Statement; (c) in 2007 was invited as a resource person in the WHO Asia Regional Technical Consultation on HIV/AIDS and Nutrition (Thailand); (d) one of PCI staff members in India was selected, from a pool of hundreds of HIV-positive women, to be the one representative from Asia on the UNAIDS Women and AIDS Tour to the United States.

Cooperation with United Nations and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters: PCI and partners, including the World Food Programme (WFP), hosted a Forum entitled "Food Insecurity and HIV/AIDS: The Dual Epidemics of HIV/AIDS and Food Insecurity in Africa" (2006, Zambia). The Forum provided an important opportunity for local NGOs and international public health and development organizations to share experiences in integrating HIV/AIDS, food security, and nutrition programming, both to strengthen collective efforts, as well as

to inform policy decisions based on "frontline" realities. The Forum built on the World Health Organization (WHO) Consultation on Nutrition and HIV/AIDS in Africa and the International Food Policy Research Institution Conference on HIV/AIDS and Food and Nutrition Security (South Africa, 2005). The Forum served as a platform for relationship-building between implementing organizations to foster collaborative learning and the incorporation of such learning into the design, funding, and delivery of future programmes.

Building upon this growing recognition, in late 2006, PCI convened an advocacy group comprised of 43 members representing 25 organizations, including several United Nations agencies (WHO, WFP). Through monthly conference calls and regular e-mail communiqués, this informal group, now known as FANSHA (Food and Nutrition Security and HIV&AIDS Advocacy Group), has fostered information sharing, strategizing and coordination focused on this critical topic. The group's overarching purpose is to strengthen awareness of the interaction between food and nutrition insecurity and HIV and AIDS with the aim of influencing key decisions and processes that encourage reduced risk of HIV transmission and increase resilience to HIV/AIDS, building on the AF06 Declaration.

In 2008, UNAIDS agreed to partner with PCI on the development and launch of the "next generation" prevention technology programmes that achieve changes in destructive social norms that drive the epidemic (such as gender inequality, sexual violence, stigma and discrimination, acceptance of risky sexual practices, etc.). PCI and UNAIDS co-convened a meeting of major donors and other policy leaders/academics to jointly present a prototype for the "next generation" of prevention, i.e., social change/social mobilization programmes. Presentations included (a) a review of social change programmes to date; (b) the social mobilization prototype; (c) cost estimates of social mobilization programmes; and (d) a monitoring and evaluation framework for social change programmes. This collaboration eventually helped lead to a major social mobilization programme to combat gender-based violence in South Africa as an HIV/AIDS prevention strategy.

In May 2007, UNAIDS published a Case Study in monograph form of PCI's year-long walk (2004-2005) in India, "Overcoming HIV/AIDS Step by Step: The AIDS Walk for Life in India".

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1: eradicate extreme poverty and hunger: (a) 10,722 households documented an increased income through income generating programmes. On average, the recorded increase in household income was 94 per cent in programmes in Bolivia and Nicaragua; (b) 14,920 members of self-help groups in Ethiopia and Zambia were provided with loans; (c) 296,965 children were documented with improved nutrition in Nicaragua, Ethiopia and Zambia.

Goal 2: achieve universal primary education: (a) 181,440 children with improved attendance/performance in school through food for education programmes in Nicaragua and Bolivia; and (b) at least 1,366,077 children provided with daily school breakfast.

Goal 3: promote gender equality and empower women: (a) 18,592 women provided with microenterprise support through programmes in Nicaragua, India, Ethiopia and Zambia; and (b) 177,511 women were provided with education/training.

Goal 4: reduce child mortality: (a) at least 52,584 children received health and medical services; and (b) according to analysis in Nicaragua, there was a 65 per cent improvement in growth levels among targeted children.

Goal 5: improve maternal health: (a) over 30,825 women were reached with midwifery care or maternal health services in the Huehuetenango district of Guatemala.

Goal 6: combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases: (a) according to a 2008 cohort analysis, 91.2 per cent of persons with TB reached by PCI in 13 priority states of Mexico were cured, compared to a national average cure rate of 84.1 per cent; and (b) 356,725 orphans and other vulnerable children reached with comprehensive services (education, nutrition, health, psychosocial, etc.) in Nicaragua, Zambia and Ethiopia.

Goal 7: ensure environmental sustainability: (a) 29 comprehensive water systems established benefiting 8,703 individuals in Nicaragua; (b) 982 latrines built directly impacting 5,407 people in Nicaragua; (c) and 35 water and sanitation networks throughout Central America were strengthened.

Activities in support of global principles: PCI participates in a wide variety of ways in the following: World AIDS Day, World Water Day, International Women's Day, World Health Day, World Food Day, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and World Breastfeeding Week. Information is shared and special events are held. A particularly important set of events took place on World AIDS Day 2004 and 2005, which was the PCI AIDS Walk for Life.

PCI has not participated as fully as possible in the work of the Economic and Social Council primarily owing to competing priorities and limited resources (human and financial). It is important to note, however, that in this particular reporting period (2005-2008), PCI participation at the regional and international level increased and improved tremendously over previous years owing at least in part to the organization's increasing reputation in selected areas of work such as integrated HIV/AIDS and food/nutrition security.

5. Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

Special, 1985

I. Introduction

The Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (WMSAMEC) was established in 1864. The Society, in essence, the social outreach arm of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, endeavours to make possible opportunities and resources to meet the changing needs and concerns of peoples throughout the world. We have well-established Societies around the world, including in virtually every state in the United States of America, the Bahamas, Bermuda, Central Africa, Central America, Dominican Republic, England, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Namibia, South Africa, other Southern Africa nations, Suriname, Trinidad, West Africa, and most recently, India. The primary concerns of the Society are issues relative to women, children and families; however, it is recognized that almost everything affects our core concerns, and that the whole community must be addressed.

We continue our affiliations with a number of other organizations with similar concerns, such as: Church Women United, National Council of Negro Women, World Federation of Methodist Women, Bread for the World, the Children's Defense Fund, the World Council of Churches, the National Council of Churches and many others.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities: During the report period 2005-2008, the Organization has continued to exercise every opportunity to be involved at the United Nations, its affiliated organizations such as the Department of Public Information, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, the United Nations Foundation and others. The Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church takes very seriously its affiliation with the United Nations, and makes every attempt to promote the work of the Economic and Social Council, and disseminate the information obtained through the Department of Public Information. The appointed Representatives attend regular briefings and other special meetings held at the United Nations. The Organization was unable to send representatives to the Economic and Social Council meetings held abroad, but rather chose to spend those funds supporting and implementing programmes and projects that relate to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other programmes that benefited our designated areas of interest.

Initiatives undertaken in support of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): Throughout the 20 districts of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, local churches operate food and clothing banks, hospital and nursing home visitations, drug recovery programmes, school supplies and mentoring programmes, scholarship programmes, violence against women preventive programmes, soup kitchens, HIV/AIDS programming and testing, and more. These programmes affect the lives of virtually tens of thousands of people on a regular basis. Over the past four years, we have held our annual NGO conference the third week in October at

the United Nations. We have offered workshops, seminars and panel discussions staffed by United Nations personnel. Following is a short summary of the quadrennial programming:

2005: Theme: "NGO's: Partners in the Promise: Fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals". In 2005, our focus was on the MDGs. We worked to educate, advocate and participate in programmes that would help as we seek to do our part in the fulfilment of each of the MDGs to the best of our ability. We continued our Maama Kit Initiative, which began in 2004. We journeyed to Mozambique to initiate the distribution of the kits to provide the means for a clean, safe environment for the delivery of babies in the rural/bush area, which lacks hospitals or clinics and depends on midwives or traditional medical techniques. The kits consisted of sterile gauze pads, razor blades, plastic sheeting, cotton rolls, and other simple items for safe birthing. We also continued our partnership with the US Fund for UNICEF and participated in its annual trick or treat for UNICEF campaign, and began an ongoing involvement with the "School in a Box" programme, financing several boxes. Our youth also participated in a letter-writing campaign with children of war-torn areas through UNICEF. Also, we were able to affect the lives of some of the more than 15 million children under the age of 18 whose mothers, fathers, or both parents have died because of AIDS through the UNICEF/HIV/AIDS-OVCs. We raised over $35,000 towards this effort, and received an award from the US Fund for UNICEF for our efforts.

2006: Theme: "The WMS Agent for Change: MACRO Impacting the Future". Our 2006 efforts continued to focus on the MDGs in both education and advocacy. Our "School in a Box" campaign continued and the "Unite for Children-Unite against AIDS" initiative was expanded. We also began a campaign of awareness and aid for the peoples of Darfur. We partnered with "My Sister's Keeper", providing financial aid for the subsistence of the refugees of the Sudan. At our 2006 conference, we hosted presentations from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

2007: Theme: "WMS — Continuing the Legacy, Embracing the Past, Empowered for the Future". Our 2007 efforts again promoted the MDGs as we began our partnership with UNFPA, embracing their campaign to end obstetric fistula. We embarked on a major fund-raising campaign. We held a Connection-wide Mother's Day drive that would educate as well as raise funds for obstetric fistula. We singled out MDG 7, and partnered with UNICEF working on the water and sanitation projects and the Tap Project.

2008: Theme: "The Women's Missionary Society: Celebrating 20 Years of NGO Global Witness, Ministry and Service". During 2008, we looked inward as we celebrated 20 years of holding NGO conferences at the United Nations. We celebrated Sister Wilhelmina Lawrence (deceased), the visionary President whose efforts in 1985 led to our NGO status. However, our inward look spawned a renewed energy to continue our focus on the MDGs and the campaigns that would afford us the opportunity to make a difference. We continued our fistula campaign efforts and began preparations to visit Malawi in late 2009 or early 2010 for the first distribution of funds for surgeries. We are in conversation with UNFPA to help facilitate the trip and the distribution. We will also be sending funds to Ghana for distribution to hospitals and clinics through UNFPA. We also identified microcredit as our next major campaign and began to work out the logistics of the effort.

6. World Assembly of Small and Medium Enterprises

Special, 1989

Aims of the organization: The major objectives of the World Assembly of Small and Medium Enterprises (WASME) are: (a) articulating concerns and interests of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) at various national, regional and international forums; (b) developing relationships between SMEs in developed and developing countries by encouraging enterprise-to-enterprise cooperation; (c) networking with related/similar organizations; (d) expanding collaboration with United Nations agencies and international organizations; (e) capacity-building of SMEs through managerial and skill development programmes; (f) disseminating information on and about international developments in the SME sector; and (g) carrying out research and studies on topical issues confronting SMEs. Since its inception, WASME has been striving to stimulate, foster, promote and coordinate international cooperation and movement for the growth and development of SMEs.

In 2005-2009, WASME continued with its activities aimed at espousing the cause of SMEs around the world. It set up a Permanent Mission to the United National Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and other United Nations organizations in cooperation with the European Institute for Economic Development in the last quarter of 2006. It submitted a Cooperation Memo to UNIDO (Austria, 2007). WASME was accorded observer status by the World Customs Organization in 2007.

Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

WASME participated as follows: (a) made a statement at the 21st session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) (Thailand, 2005); (b) participated in 31st session of the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO (Vienna, 2006); (c) participated in the first session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (Switzerland, 2006); (d) participated in the 175th session of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Executive Board (France, 2006); (e) participated at the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Second International Business Conference (Nigeria, 2006); (f) participated in the 40th anniversary celebrations of UNIDO (Austria, 2006); (g) participated at the 32nd session of the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO (Austria, 2006); (h) participated in the 33rd session of the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO (Austria, 2007); (i) presented a paper at the national seminar held by the Planning Commission of India and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on human development issues: capacity development in Indian States (India, 2007); (j) participated in the International Labour Organization (ILO) Forum on Decent Work for a Fair Globalization (Portugal, 2007); (k) participated in the 34th session of the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO (Austria, 2008); (l) participated in the 64th session of ESCAP (Thailand, 2008).

Other meetings: Participated in (a) the first annual General Meeting of International Network for SMEs (Barcelona, 2005); (b) XVIth WASME International Conference on SMEs (Romania, 2005); (c) the 50th World Conference on International Council for Small Business (United States of America, 2005); (d) the XVIIth WASME World SME Convention (Republic of Korea, 2006); (e) the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)-Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Global Conference (Greece, 2006); (f) the 3rd World SME Expo (Hong Kong SAR of China, 2006); (g) the OECD Global Conference on "Enhancing the Role of SMEs in Global Value Chains" (Japan, 2007); (h) the Seminar on Small Cyber Enterprises: Business and Market Development for Sustainability (India, 2007); (i) the Expert Meeting on Comparing Best Practices for Creating an Environment Conducive to Maximizing Development Benefits, Economic Growth and Investment in Developing Countries and Countries in Transition (Switzerland, 2007); (j) addressed the National Convention organized by the National Council of Small and Medium-sized Private Enterprises in Romania (Romania, 2008); (k) delivered a statement at the 4th International Conference on Women Leadership and Small and Medium Enterprises Exhibition 2008 (Pakistan, 2008); (l) participated in the national MSME Award Function (India, 2008); (m) participated in the 10th Jubilee Small and Business Medium Enterprises Fair (Montenegro, 2008); (n) participated in the 35th International Small Business Congress (Northern Ireland, 2008); (o) participated in the "National Top of Private Enterprises — Top 2007 — XVIth Edition" event, organized by the National Council of Small and Medium-sized Private Enterprises in Romania (2008).

Other activities: research studies: completed a field-based study for the Ministry of Small Scale Industries, Government of India, entitled "Role and Challenges of Small Service Enterprises in India" (2005-2006); completed a feasibility study for bioenergy mission cell, Government of Uttar Pradesh, India, on installing the bio-gas plants in the Naxalite villages of Sonbhadra District of Uttar Pradesh Province in India.

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Note by the Secretary-General

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1. Heart's Home Association

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

The Heart's Home Association is a non-governmental Catholic organization founded in 1990 whose charitable status was recognized by the French Government in 1994. Since its foundation the Association, which is present in 20 countries on four continents, has dispatched more than 1,100 volunteers to 30 neighbourhood homes—"Heart's Homes"—, two Heart's Home villages, six student houses and four training centres. Its purpose: to minister to the most disadvantaged the world over.

Heart's Homes are welcoming, lively places with a family atmosphere, open to all. By taking a personal approach in every circumstance, they seek to bring an end to isolation and solitude, the main causes of exclusion both in poor countries and in rich ones.

Working in close solidarity, they cater to all aspects of the person—emotional, physical, and educational—so that vulnerable people in distress or the excluded, in particular children, can rebuild and reintegrate into the social fabric, and in so doing seek to bridge the gap between the street, families and local structures.

Since 2005, there has been little change in the number of volunteers on the ground. In 2006 and 2007 it fell off from the peak of 176 in December 2005 but recovered to 174 by December 2008. Though the majority of the volunteers are still European, there is an ever-growing number from countries where Heart's Homes are located (Latin America, India, USA, Africa.

As people's distress may be manifested in many ways, Heart's Home activities too have grown much more diverse. While at first the Association focused on shantytowns, Heart's Homes have gradually been established in big cities, where loneliness and the loss of traditional support networks has become a major problem.

The Association has set up in new places (Chile, Ukraine), but some homes have had to close, such as those in Haiti and Kazakhstan in 2006 and in 2007, Lebanon and Colombia. In most cases, the country's geopolitical situation put volunteers in too much danger, or else the way the country was developing simply made their mission impossible.

II. Association's contribution to United Nations activities

The Association's involvement with the United Nations, which began in 2005, has been gaining momentum. Once it had obtained special consultative status, it opened an office in Geneva and appointed a permanent representative. That appointment coincided with the creation of the Human Rights Council and led to the representative's accreditation thereto and his subsequent participation in each Council meeting.

During those sessions, the Association has proposed a number of side events. In September 2007, during the sixth session of the Human Rights Council, a

roundtable was organized on the centrality of dignity of the person in human rights; another roundtable on the dignity of the person and human rights was held in March 2008 during the Council's seventh session. Heart's Homes also attended the first session of the Human Rights Advisory Committee in August 2008.

Today, Heart's Homes is associated with several groups of non-governmental organizations working on issues ranging from the right to education to human rights, extreme poverty, the rights of the child, cultural rights, and the family.

The presence of an on-site representative also enable some monitoring of the activities of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, in particular through the representative's attendance of Committee meetings.

Heart's Homes joined with several other NGOs in co-signing written or oral declarations such as that proposed in March 2008 by the International Catholic Child Bureau (BICE) on the rights of the child and requests for better protection of children subjected to child labour and those in conflict with the law.

In August 2007, Heart's Homes responded to a survey of civil society on the draft guiding principles on human rights and extreme poverty under Resolution 2/2 of the Human Rights Council.

At the International Conference on Education in November 2008, Heart's Homes, in partnership with nine other non-governmental organizations also supported by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), organized a roundtable on the right to inclusive education and its implications, problems and challenges.

The Association belongs to a group of NGOs that in May 2007 signed the Fribourg Declaration on Cultural Rights. Its involvement in the cultural rights platform gave it an incentive to engage in negotiations aimed at establishing a new mandate for an independent expert in the field of cultural rights.

Apart from its work within international bodies, the Association is daily pursuing its commitment to the promotion of human rights in every form. In June 2007, the exhibit "Pauvres et dignes" [*dignity in poverty*], made up of photographs taken by volunteers in the field, was inaugurated in the waiting hall of the Palais des Nations in Geneva. Since then, it has travelled the world: New York, Naples, Paris... and been presented in colleges and high schools in France and Switzerland. Each showing is an opportunity to promote human rights.

On 3 December 2008, to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Heart's Homes organized a film discussion on the movie "Dogora" directed by Patrice Leconte, followed by a discussion with the latter on the theme of dignity for all.

In 2008, to give maximum publicity to the work of Heart's Homes as an NGO accredited to ECOSOC, a website was put up.

2. Tunisian Mothers' Association

General, 2001

I. Introduction

The Tunisian Mothers' Association, Created in August 1992, received its charter that same year as the Tunisian chapter of the World Movement of Mothers. In May 1999, the Tunisian Mothers' Association was recognized as a national charitable NGO. It was granted special status by the Economic and Social Council in 1996, then general status in 2001.

The Association was born of a dynamic collective solidarity of Tunisian mothers wishing to help mothers and future mothers to discharge their family and social responsibilities by promoting their integration into economic, civic and cultural life and their membership in associations. Its basis is the principle of equal rights and duties of women and men, women's participation in political, social, economic and cultural life, and the importance of their role as partners in sustainable development, family well-being and social progress.

In keeping with its objectives, the Association campaigns for a platform of actions linked to the socioeconomic themes of the United Nations Charter, covering the scientific, social, economic, environmental, digital and cultural spheres.

The year 2008 was devoted to girl student, "Mothers of the Future", through the Association's youth chapter, and focused on dialogue with young people to continue communication and promote cohesion between generations and ensure that the Association's work will be carried forward.

At the end of the period, there were 25,000 Association members, 20% of them young people representing 300 chapters, 30 youth chapters, 30 professional chapters and 130 foreign chapters. The diversity and effectiveness of the Association's activities and projects qualified it to act as UN-NGO/IRENE Regional Network Coordinator for Africa.

II. Contribution to United Nations activities

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

The Tunisian Mothers' Association took part in the annual meetings of the that Segment of ECOSOC in July 2006, 2007 and 2008, where it sought to report on the role of non-governmental organizations in the pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals.

The Association, convinced of the need to improve citizens' daily life, contributed to the work of the Commission for Social Development at its forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions, held in New York in February 2006 and 2007.

At the World Summit on the Information Society held in Tunis in November 2005, the Association played the role of coordinator of the UN-NGO Network for Africa.

The Association took part in the twelfth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Accra from 20 to 26 April 2008, and the civil society forum, held parallel to the Conference, on the opportunities and challenges of globalization for development.

It also took part in the fifty-ninth to sixty-first annual conferences of the department of public information for non-governmental organizations, held at the United Nations headquarters in New York in September 2006 and September 2007, and at UNESCO headquarters in Paris in September 2008.

In terms of human rights, the Association participated in various sessions of the Human Rights Council in Geneva in June, September and November 2006 and September 2007. Through its statements and writings the Association has helped strengthen international solidarity in order to give effect to the right to development and overcome the obstacles to enjoyment of the right to food under the first Millennium Goal. The Association provides linkages between national and international levels as regards the defence of the rights of vulnerable groups, thereby reaffirming the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of economic, social and cultural rights.

The Association also participated in the work of the sixty-first and sixty-second sessions of the Human Rights Commission (in March and April 2005 and 2006) and the eighty-sixth, eighty-seventh and eighty-eighth sessions of the Human Rights Committee (July and November 2006 in Geneva and March 2006 in New York).

The Association contributed to the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) during its thirty-fourth and thirty-sixth sessions, held in January-February 2006 and August 2006 in New York. It also participated in the review and appraisal of the Beijing Declaration (Beijing +10), from 28 February to 11 March 2005, during the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York as well as its fiftieth session in March 2006. The Association aims to promote the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (to which Tunisia acceded in July 1985) by highlighting the general recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (which led to Tunisia's accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention in June 2008) and to present Tunisia's experience in the area of women's rights and the scope of the reforms to the Constitution, which gives constitutional status to the principle of non-discrimination against women and gives women the status of actual partners to men.

The Association took part in the sixth Forum for African Development, organized by the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union and the African Development Bank in Addis Ababa from 19 to 21 November 2008, during which it called for gender equality, women's empowerment and the elimination of violence against women.

Activities in support of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

- Poverty reduction: The Tunisian Mothers' Association organizes multidisciplinary solidarity caravans in disadvantaged areas.

- Universal education: The Association contributes to the national fight against illiteracy, providing courses for adults (about 2,500 beneficiaries a year).

- Equal opportunities and gender: monitoring the implementation of the Code of Personal Status ensuring equality of opportunity; The Association grants microcredit: more than 500 loans varying from 500 to 1,500 dinars to help mothers undertake microprojects to improve their living conditions and enhance their economic integration; The Association supports them and helps them to manage their projects.

- Maternal/child/family and reproductive health: The Association contributes to improving the health condition of mothers and children, reducing mortality and such scourges as AIDS. Awareness of the integration of specific health services into the basic health structures, including care related to reproductive health, maternal and child health and family planning, remains essential for the advancement of women. The Association has helped liberate women from the burden of uncontrolled fertility; it organizes multidisciplinary caravans in rural areas, giving free consultations for mothers and children, the disabled and the elderly, run by volunteer specialists. At the Association's headquarters, a health committee made up of volunteer physicians, in cooperation with hospitals and health institutions, provides well-woman clinics to screen for diabetes and breast and uterine cancer, promotes mammograms and suggests ways to quit smoking.

- The environment and sustainable development: creation of "Mothers' Gardens" and beautification of neighbourhoods around the country, symbolizing the right of mothers and children to the protection of nature and a healthy environment.

- The Association carries out studies and research based on statistical field surveys; the findings of these surveys are used to make recommendations to policymakers and to establish mechanisms for cooperation between the Government and the Association, which sits on various boards in Tunisia in the areas of economic and social development, women and the family, children, rural women, and environment and sustainable development.

As a member of the World Family Organization, the Association has several times participated in the World Family Summit, held in cooperation with the United Nations in Egypt, Poland, Jordan and Brazil. These summits call for general mobilization to achieve the Millennium Development Goals promoted by the United Nations, including the right to a life of dignity, the right to the protection and development of the family and individuals, and seek to define the means, action plans, policies and strategies for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals through a public-private partnership, in collaboration with civil society stakeholders at the national and international levels working in areas relevant to the Millennium Development Goals.

3. El Kef Foundation for Regional Development

Special, 1997

I. Introduction

El Kef Foundation for Regional Development is a non-governmental, non-profit organization active in the promotion of development in various fields in the Kef region of northwestern and central Tunisia since 1985. Its operational goals include improving the living conditions of rural populations. The achievements of the Foundation are coordinated with national strategies. It cooperates with local, regional and national authorities. Since its inception, the Foundation has sought to diversify its partnerships, which allow it to cover the areas of social, cultural, environmental and economic development.

The Foundation has consultative status with the United Nations' Economic and Social Council and is a member of the Scientific Council of IFEDA in Tunisia (the Centre for Information, Training, Study and Documentation on Associations), the Euro-Arab NGO network for Development, and the International Federation of Rural Women.

II. Foundation's contribution to United Nations activities

Activities in support of global principles

1. Reproductive health project in the shadow areas of the Governorate of El Kef

This project is related to the programme of cooperation between the United Nations Population Fund and Tunisia and is part of UNFPA's reproductive health subprogramme. It aims to promote the components of the subprogramme to the residents of the "shadow areas" [areas of extreme poverty] while integrating the gender perspective and enhancing the empowerment of women in the microcredit management system. It has benefited 9,800 people in 11 rural areas. The final evaluation was done in 2006 and identified a set of guidelines to be used to develop new projects.

2. A Tunisian-Belgian project for cooperation in the shadow areas of El Kef

The project is being conducted in cooperation with Tunisia's National Solidarity Fund and Belgian Technical Cooperation and has $1.4 million in funding over a seven-year period (2001-2008). The activities entrusted to the Foundation are: the construction of 243 homes in the four areas targeted; creating income-generating activities through microcredit; construction and equipment of four community development centres; training for members of development groups; and formation of an agricultural development group.

3. Pilot integrated development and natural resources management operation/southwestern El Kef, rural women component

The Foundation is continuing its endeavours to implement the programme of gainful activities for rural women in the southwestern part of the governorate of El

Kef in cooperation with the European Union and the El Kef regional agricultural development office. The project has involved 300 women and girls. The final evaluation was conducted by an international office in February 2008.

4. Project against plastic waste

The activities of this project, aimed at elementary school students, have focused on awareness-raising events about protecting the environment from plastic waste, followed by a litter pick-up campaign around schools. The project was conducted in 2005 in partnership with the National Agency for Environmental Protection and reached 300 students.

5. Environmental protection programme in the Takrouna area

(a) In collaboration with the Takrouna Foundation (Netherlands) and its partners:

- Community Development Centre: final approval of the Centre, whose construction began in September 2005, was granted in October 2008 and enabled the agricultural development group to set up its headquarters there and enhance its community dynamic;
- Installation of rainwater management systems: Since the program's inception, 53 rainwater management systems have been installed for the benefit of 52 families and schools in the area;
- Improved habitat conditions: in accordance with an update to the field survey conducted in July and August 2007, 14 families have had their housing upgraded, including 12 families that received heating stoves;
- Solar energy: 104 families have benefited from the installation or rehabilitation of solar energy systems, given that the area is many kilometres off net;
- Distillation: under an agreement between the Foundation and the Embassy of the Netherlands, 26 women and girls received training in 2006 in the distillation of forest plants. Members of the agricultural development group also received training, on communication and sustainable development.

(b) In collaboration with the National Solidarity Fund and Belgian Technical Cooperation: a hundred hectares were protected against erosion and consolidated by tree-planting (2,000 olive, 250 almond, 2,500 cypress, 3,000 acacia, 1,000 thornbush acacia, 8,900 saltbush and 500 eucalyptus); five structures were erected to reduce water runoff, which has a direct influence on agricultural fields, and to protect the track against landslides. The training component was aimed at women and girls and focused on raising awareness of environmental protection, including the fight against land degradation. Fifteen families benefited from microcredit loans (beekeeping, basket weaving and feedlots). Five and a half kilometres of track was upgraded between Kharrouba and Sidi Bou Adila; the track has to a large extent opened up the area where the project is being implemented. Development of water sources and tank construction have brought clean drinking water to the entire population (82 households).

(c) In conjunction with the Global Environment Facility:

- In the context of participatory monitoring and evaluation of the progress of activities conducted and financed by the Global Environment Facility and other partners, a midterm evaluation bringing together all project partners was conducted on 26 November 2008 in the El Kef region;

- In the context of activity monitoring, the project team is continuing on-site training and awareness efforts, in particular with respect to the effective use of covers for *tabouna* ovens to reduce wood consumption in cooking and heating;

- Manual construction of 20.5 hectares of bench terrace and its consolidation by means of 2,000 olive trees and 250 almond trees, which were provided by the El Kef Regional Commissioner for Agricultural Development (water and soil conservation). Vegetation along watercourses was protected by the planting of 3,000 acacias, 8,900 saltbush trees, 500 eucalyptus trees and 1,000 thornbush acacias in gullies and beside streams. The work is being done by local workers and is paid for by the project.

Foundation participation in seminars and workshops

(a) A seminar on biodiversity conservation in arid lands, organized by the UNESCO Club, Tozeur and the microfinance program of the Global Environment Facility in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development to mark the celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity; (b) A national Seminar on partnering to achieve a better quality of life for Mediterranean countries, organized in 2008 by Tunisia's Association of the Mediterranean Network for Sustainable Development; (c) A workshop to exchange experiences in the dissemination of lessons learned and a workshop to exchange best practices, in 2007 and 2008.

4. Mediterranean Water Institute

(Special, 1993)

I. Introduction

The Mediterranean Water Institute (Institut méditerranéen de l'eau) is a networked international non-governmental organization. Its members are from diverse backgrounds and have in common their involvement with the issue of water in the Mediterranean. The Institute brings together all stakeholders concerned with that issue: local and regional authorities, government offices, professionals (public and private) and individual contributors. The Institute maintains close relations with various agencies, programs and specialized agencies of the United Nations (United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Environment Program, World Bank); other international institutions (World Water Council, Global Water Partnership, the Arab Water Council); Mediterranean institutions (Action Plan for the Mediterranean, Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water, Blue Plan, Regional Activity

Centre/Priority Actions Programme, etc.); and European institutions such as the European Union.

The Institute's primary role is twofold:

- To provide its members with the support they expect from it, including cooperation, sharing of know-how, training, access to financial institutions, and consideration for their priorities; the Institute plays a facilitation role;
- To represent its members (but not exclusively) to various national or international agencies.

The Institute works to develop cooperation and exchange experiences and know-how in the field of water in the Mediterranean. Since 2005, the Institute has acquired a new presence in Syria and Jordan through the accession of new members.

The diversity and competence of its members makes the Institute a leader in the development of water-related knowledge and behaviours in the Mediterranean.

As such, and as a non-governmental organization, the Institute performs the following functions: Governor of the World Water Council (2003-2009); member of the Global Water Partnership and its Mediterranean component; and alternate member of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development.

The Institute has participated as an observer at the third Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water held in Jordan in December 2008 and at various meetings of heads of water departments in the Euro-Mediterranean countries and the countries of Southeastern Europe (Rome 2005, Athens 2006, Slovenia 2007, Athens 2008).

II. Contribution to United Nations activities

From 2005 to 2008, the Institute participated in and organized intergovernmental events of regional and international scope within its purview, from the mobilization of water resources to issues pertinent to urban water supply.

The water issue is a well-known one in the Mediterranean region. in many countries, particularly in the south and east, the nub of the issue is a limited resource and strong population growth, resulting in competition between uses and a strain on resources; the prospect of future climate change exacerbates this through the risk of a loss of ability to mobilize water resources. In this context, and within broad international guidelines and initiatives, the Institute is part of a sustainable development endeavour in the region and works to promote skills development, experience sharing and synergy among all actors.

The work of the Institute is firmly in line with the modern schools of thought on the issue of water management as determined by Agenda 21, the Millennium Declaration, the Millennium Development Goals and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

The Institute's action must be consistent with the call issued by the United Nations for a new impetus to be brought to the implementation of Agenda 21 during the 2005-2015 decade in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals on water supply and sanitation and to help reduce poverty. Thus, the Institute has called for regional mobilization to contribute to the success of the 2005-2015 decade and

to promote modern, responsible water management in the region. The Institute regularly participates in the World Water Forums, which are held every three years. Thus, in March 2006 the Institute participated in the fourth World Water Forum held in Mexico City, and has initiated action on water issues and local policies in the Mediterranean to strengthen the role of local communities and stakeholders. In the runup to the fifth World Water Forum held in Istanbul in March 2009, the Institute coordinated a Mediterranean session with the support of four countries (Spain, France, Greece and Morocco) and four networks (the Blue Plan, the Mediterranean component of the Global Water Partnership, the Regional Activity Centre/Priority Actions Programme, and the Euro-Mediterranean Network of Basin Organizations). A regional report was produced as food for thought for the Mediterranean session.

The Institute participated in regular meetings of the contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention, held in Slovenia (2005), Istanbul (2007) and Almeria (2008), and the development forum organized by the World Bank Institute and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in April 2006 in Beirut, Lebanon.

The participated Institute actively in the organization, in cooperation with Blue Plan, of the third regional workshop on managing water demand in the Mediterranean, held in Zaragoza, Spain, in March 2007. As a member of the Science Committee, the Institute was responsible for the sub-workshop on the inclusion of demand management in urban and industrial water management.

In 2008, the Institute was asked to attend the Sixth Forum of the World Alliance of Cities against Poverty organized in Athens by the city and UNDP on the strengthening of local democratic governance to eradicate poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

The Institute assisted with the project to enhance capacity in the areas of rational use, development and protection of groundwater resources shared by several states in the Mediterranean region, led by the International Hydrological Programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in partnership with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA),involving development of a database, and participated in the briefing workshop held in Thessaloniki in November 2007.

In 2007, the Institute helped develop the recommendations for integrated planning of urban water systems bordering the Mediterranean made by the Regional Activity Centre/Priority Actions Programme of the Action Plan for the Mediterranean. That work was performed in full compliance with the priority issues and general principles of Agenda 21 and the agenda for the Mediterranean as well as the conclusions of the Barcelona Euro-Mediterranean Conference (1995), and the activities of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development.

As part of the Mediterranean component of the Global Water Partnership, the Institute contributed to the establishment of networks of water stakeholders including the Mediterranean Network of Basin Organizations and the Euro-Mediterranean Irrigators Community.

On behalf of the European Commission, the Institute has since 2005 been conducting a supervision and support mission for the Euro-Mediterranean regional Programme for Local Water Management (MEDA-Water) to sensitize national authorities to the Programme and the results of projects funded in connection with it

(2005-2008). Two information talks on the program were organized for representatives of national authorities of the countries concerned (in Amman in April 2007 and in Marrakech in April 2008).

5. Burundi environmental protection organization

(Special, 2005; 2005)

I. Introduction

The Burundi environmental protection organization was established by Ministerial Order in October 1992.

Its goals and objectives are to safeguard the environment by promoting sustainable development.

It seeks to:

- Identify actions to preserve the environment and encourage grassroots communities' participation therein;
- Make the public aware of the harm caused by actions taken against nature;
- Promote an operational forum seeking to preserve or indeed enhance the state of the environment;
- Organize specific, focused environmental protection activities;
- Build awareness of and support for local development initiatives related to environmental protection.

The Organization is a member of the following:

- Forum burundais de la société civile du bassin du Nil;
- International Union for Conservation of Nature;
- Global Water Partnership; and is accredited to the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

II. Organization's contribution to United Nations activities

The Organization has mainly contributed to the achievement of the mission of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies by focusing on the implementation of three agreements arising from the Rio de Janeiro conference, namely the Convention on Biodiversity, the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention to Combat Desertification.

A. Participation in the various meetings of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

The Organization has consistently expressed the wish to participate in the sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development, but has not been able to do so because the letters of invitation did not arrive until shortly before the deadline for applying for a United States entry visa.

B. Cooperation with specialized United Nations institutions

In April 2007 the Organization signed a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations Development Programme for the implementation and supervision of the participatory conservation project of Ruvubu River National Park, funded for a period of 12 months by the Nile Basin micro-grants program for the protection of Ruvubu River National Park. The results obtained are as follows:

- A hedge of *Austrocylindropuntia subulata* was planted over a length of 5 km on the park boundary on the hill of Taba in the commune of Nyabikere;
- Twenty-nine members of the Tugwanyubukene group were trained in modern husbandry techniques;
- An apiary 30 m long was constructed;
- A hundred modern beehives and beekeeping equipment were bought for the members who had received training;
- Nurseries produced 150,000 agroforestal seedlings, 1,000 avocado seedlings and 500 orange trees;
- Three workshops were held to raise the awareness of the local population, local staff of the Environmental Police, and local staff of the National Institute for Environment and Nature Conservation.

The Organization has held three meetings with the High Commissioner for Refugees pursuant to the implementation of the policy of repatriation of Burundian refugees from Tanzania under the Partnership in Action programme.

C. Initiatives in support of the achievement of the MillenniumDevelopment Goals

The Organization contributed as follows to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals:

Goal 1
Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

In the context of the fight against poverty, the Organization identified vulnerable persons who are in need and must live off forest resources around the protected areas of Kibira and Ruvubu national parks. Thus, 10 groups of vulnerable people (285 in total) were initiated and obtained the following agricultural inputs: 30 tons of seed potatoes; 20 dairy cows and four bulls; 150,000 cuttings of trypsacum; and 2,000 kg of maize.

Goal 7
Ensure environmental sustainability

- A group of 120 traditional healers living around the protected areas, who were working clandestinely, were brought together by the Organization in a waterfront parksite to domesticate the forest's most sought-after medicinal plants, so as to save them and use them on their farms. The co-location of the healers spares them from travelling excessive distances.
- In addition, these medicinal plants were promoted to the administrative and health authorities. The beneficiaries now work officially and the financial returns are considerable. Through their work, 6,000 plants were domesticated in the field and in households; and 12,000 seedlings were produced in nurseries, then distributed to 80 households.
- There have been several working sessions of the steering committee for the development of two national communications on climate change, to define a strategy and measures for adaptation to climate change.
- Working sessions were also held on the updating of the national chemical profile and the development of a database for chemical management in Burundi.
- An environmental education module was produced for primary school teachers.
- Contribution to the development of the national strategy for biodiversity conservation in Burundi;
- Implementation of landscaping activities and livelihoods based on the conservation of natural resources for indigenous Batwa;
- Contribution to completion of the economic impact study on climate change in Burundi in collaboration with the Stockholm Environment Institute;
- Contributing to development of the national policy on integrated water management.

D. Contributions to global events and international days

The Organization has made an annual contribution to the celebration of World Environment Day (5 June) through a radio and television message to publicize Burundi's most notable environmental problems. Similarly, the organization participated in the celebration of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought through broadcast messages on the danger to the population of land degradation by poor agricultural practices, but also through the conduct of anti-erosion activities in the field. The budget for these meetings is not always available, hence the need to obtain sponsors, which are not always forthcoming.

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Note by the Secretary-General

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1. Federation of Islamic Medical Associations

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

The aims of the Federation include collaboration among member organizations in various countries on medical relief for needy communities, and during disasters; medical education, training and research; exchange of experiences and information in the area of health among member organizations; and promoting the application of sound ethical standards in health care and medical research

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The Federation did not participate as fully as might be expected in the work of the Council because of lack of proper and timely communications. Information about international meetings and conferences was not received at its headquarters during the reporting period.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The Federation cooperated with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in organizing and executing an international Muslim leaders' consultation on HIV/AIDS in Addis Ababa in July 2007. It also collaborated with the World Health Organization (WHO) on planning and executing a campaign against blindness, from 2005 to the present. This collaboration took the following forms: (a) technical and logistic cooperation on the establishment of an eye hospital in Al-Genaina, Darfur, Sudan, which opened in January 2006; (b) cooperation on combating visual impairment in needy countries in Africa and Asia; (c) participation in a WHO-sponsored meeting on the prevention of blindness; (d) participation in a convention on bioethics organized by the World Medical Association, WHO, the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences and the Islamic Organization for Medical Sciences in Cairo; (e) participation in an international seminar on stem cell research and ethical challenges, Cairo, 2007.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The Federation established a programme called "Save Vision", which aims to combat blindness, especially blindness caused by cataracts, in countries with poor medical facilities and poor economic and social development. Blindness is a major public-health problem in Africa, the eastern Mediterranean region and other parts of the developing world. If urgent action is not taken, the number of blind persons will

double over the next 20 years. The main target is to treat cataracts, which is the main cause of treatable blindness, in remote areas of Africa and Asia; train and build the capacity of local eye doctors, nurses and other paramedics; and establish permanent, well-equipped and sustainable eye hospitals or clinics in existing local hospitals.

To accomplish its aims, the Federation deploys eye specialists to the aforementioned areas and provides all the necessary equipment, medications and so forth. It cooperates with concerned non-governmental organizations and local health authorities to raise funds to establish and equip eye hospitals and assists in raising awareness of the problem of visual impairment. Over the past four years, its programme was implemented in eight countries in Africa and five countries in Asia.

With respect to the combating of HIV/AIDS, the Federation and its member associations have undertaken many activities related to HIV/AIDS prevention and patient care in Africa and Asia in the last three decades.

In Africa, the Islamic Medical Association of Uganda, a Federation member, has played a lead role since 1989. The Third International Muslim Leaders' Consultation on HIV/AIDS was held in Addis Ababa in July 2007, with participants from 28 countries. The conference was aimed at promoting the understanding and use of the Islamic approach to HIV/AIDS. The Islamic Medical Association of South Africa, another Federation member, adopted an HIV/AIDS prevention programme in 1998, in collaboration with two other Muslim organizations, which focuses on the management of patients.

In South-East Asia, the Islamic Medical Association of Malaysia has been active in raising public awareness of measures to combat HIV/AIDS since 1998, but its main achievement is the establishment of a home for women and children living with HIV/AIDS, where abandoned and orphaned children receive medical, social and educational care from dedicated experts. During the reporting period, the Federation conducted other activities in Pakistan, Indonesia and other Asian countries; it plans to expand its programme to include more countries and communities in the future.

In 2005, the Federation launched a programme in the Middle East and North Africa on protecting youth against sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS.

The Federation provided humanitarian medical relief in disaster-stricken areas in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Darfur, Sudan, by sending medical teams and supplies and caring for orphans. It also provided medical aid in Lebanon during the hostilities in 2006.

With respect to the training of medical students, the Federation organized student camps in African and Asian countries on health needs and priorities, professional planning and the excellence of Muslim health-care professionals.

2. Global Cooperation Society International

Special, 1997

I. Introduction

Global Cooperative Society International is an international non-governmental organization with networks in over 30 countries. The organization aims to promote a healthy society, improve standards of living, protect nature and the environment, restore human dignity and promote world peace, in a spirit of goodwill, cooperation and service. Its ultimate goal is to build a spiritual, affluent and caring society that transcends the differences of race, religion, ideology and nationality. The Society upholds the United Nations spirit and ideals and actively participates in United Nations-related programmes. Throughout the period 2005-2008, it participated in certain United Nations conferences and events, including commemorative activities for the International Day of Peace, and in social and economic development programmes in connection with the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Global Cooperative Society International actively sponsors medical service programmes for developing countries, which include sending volunteers to provide free medical aid. The Society's Korean chapter raised relief funds for tsunami victims in Sri Lanka in 2005 and, in 2008, the Society launched a joint project with the World Taekwondo Federation to promote the taekwondo spirit of sharing peace and service. Since 2008, seven "taekwondo peace corps" have been dispatched to more than 10 countries including India, China, the Russian Federation, Paraguay, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Egypt and Bolivia (Plurinational State of).

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In 2008, the president of Global Cooperative Society International paid a courtesy call to the Secretary-General to discuss cooperation between Korean non-governmental organizations and the United Nations. He also had a meeting with the chair of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee and other United Nations officers to discuss collaboration between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations. Many of the Society's national chapters worldwide were actively involved in projects for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. Its medical corps conducted service activities in Thailand in 2007 and in Cambodia in 2008. In November 2007, it held a fund-raising march for the elimination of child poverty in Thailand to contribute to the achievement of the Goals. In 2005 and 2006, the Malaysia chapter conducted blood donation sessions. The Society's activities in Nepal focused mainly on promoting education, health services, sanitation and environmental awareness among people living below the poverty line. Main activities included providing scholarship opportunities to students from villages in remote parts of the country, holding annual health camps in remote areas, promoting awareness of environmental problems in the Himalayas, visiting orphanages and providing food and educational materials for children. The Osaka chapter has engaged in social and economic development programmes in Cambodia, such as the establishment of an orphanage and an elementary school and the development of water resources in rural areas, since 2006. The Kenya chapter built a primary school for children in one of the country's villages.

3. The International Association of Women in Radio and Television

Special, 1985

I. Introduction

The aim of the International Association of Women in Radio and Television is to connect women working in the electronic media in countries in the North and South, with a view to increasing their participation and decision-making. In line with the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, its strategy is to empower women engaged in the media through targeted training, professional education, capacity-building, regional activities and networking to promote the human rights of women, equality between women and men and a non-stereotyped, balanced portrayal of women in the media. As one of the few media organizations with special consultative status with the Council, the Association represents a valuable resource for the United Nations itself. It has a large and growing membership, especially in the countries of the South. By December 2008, it had 342 members in 56 countries covering all continents, with local chapters in Africa, South-East Asia, Europe and India.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

In 2005-2007, the Association's board members and other representatives attended the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and the conferences of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee. The treasurer of the Association took part in the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2007, and the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Poznán, Poland, in December 2008. In November 2008, the Norway chapter attended the "Women in the Land of Conflict" conference in Oslo. The conference highlighted Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security. In November 2008, delegates from the Norway and India chapters attended the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances in Geneva.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The Association actively cooperates with numerous United Nations organizations, including the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In 2005, it attended meetings of UNESCO and the World Summit on the Information Society in Tunis. With assistance from UNESCO, it set up a women's media resource centre at the Indira Gandhi National Open University in New Delhi. At the 2006 NGO/DPI meeting in

New York, representatives from the Cameroon and Kenya chapters presented a pioneering project to inform rural village women in Cameroon about health issues and female genital mutilation. In 2007, the Nepal chapter helped to produce and distribute a media kit on resolution 1325 (2000).

Following the launch of the "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" campaign by the Secretary-General, the Association hosted a regional meeting on the role of media in ending violence against women in Bangkok in 2008. That same year, it held a regional conference in Cape Town, South Africa, on violence against women. In 2007 and 2008, the Kenya chapter worked with UNESCO on World Press Freedom Day and in 2005, 2006 and 2007, the India chapter organized the annual Asian women film-makers' festival in New Delhi, to mark International Women's Day.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 3: **Promote gender equality and empower women.** The Association's biennial awards for excellence in radio and television documentaries are awarded to women working in the media, who make documentaries on such issues as women's rights, women in war and conflict, peacebuilding and promoting gender equality. In 2007, the Philippines chapter implemented public awareness programmes on gender bias in the media and domestic violence and, in 2008, the Cameroon chapter attended a forum on women's rights and development in Cape Town, South Africa.

Goal 5: **Improve maternal health.** In 2006 and 2007, the Cameroon chapter organized community radio programmes educating local and remote communities about the genital mutilation of young girls and its effect on women's health.

Goal 6: **Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.** In December 2007, the India chapter produced an HIV/AIDS radio series during a three-day workshop in Bangalore, attended by 60 participants.

The Association adheres to the global principles contained in international instruments for strengthening women's rights, including the Beijing Platform for Action, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Millennium Development Goals and resolution 1325 (2000). All its activities and projects are related in some way to these principles. In 2006, the Nepal chapter organized a conference on the role of media women in the reconstruction process in Nepal, to coincide with the United Nations Population Fund's campaign "16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence". In 2007, the Association organized an international post-conflict reconciliation conference, with the participation of a senior United Nations adviser on gender, the Chief of UNIFEM in Nepal and a senior gender affairs adviser with the United Nations Mission in Nepal. Also in 2007, the Norwegian and Indian chapters launched a project to produce resource materials highlighting the plight of women whose husbands and sons were victims of enforced disappearances. These women now organize and campaign for their rights. The Norway and Nepal chapters teamed up with an Indian and Nepalese organization in 2007 to run a safe migration programme that helps to prevent trafficking of women and children by developing resource materials and media advocacy tools for women in remote areas of India, Bangladesh and Nepal.

4. The International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

The International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences is a long-standing world organization of social and biological scientists, academic institutions and project specialists working in the fields of human development, anthropology, ethnology and the social sciences. Its aim is to enhance exchange and communication among scholars and practitioners in all regions of the world, in a collective effort to expand human knowledge and improve the human condition. It has collaborated closely over the years with UNESCO to preserve historic monuments and the cultures of indigenous peoples. Its commissions have expanded over the years to deal with many of the themes covered by the United Nations (children and youth, women, HIV/AIDS, religion, migration, linguistics, visual anthropology, sustainable development, etc.).

II. Contribution of the Organization to the Work of the United Nations

Since 2005, the Union has attended most of the sessions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as Council-sponsored round tables and other meetings. It plans to organize parallel and side events in the future. It has followed the meetings of the General Assembly Committees, especially the Second and Third Committees. The Union has been a member of the executive board of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations Committee on Children's Rights since 2007 and, during the 2005-2008 period, it collaborated frequently with officers of UNICEF, the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Division for the Advancement of Women, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, UNAIDS, the Office of the President of the General Assembly, and the Office of the Special Adviser for Africa, to plan joint programmes at Headquarters and beyond.

In 2005, it organized side events on women and HIV/AIDS, the challenges of HIV/AIDS in conflict and post-conflict societies and the rights of the child. In 2006, it organized side events on indigenous children and their families and on child trafficking and sexual exploitation in western and South-East Asia. During the reporting period, it also organized annual college student internships at the United Nations. The interns contributed by providing background information on such issues as HIV/AIDS in different parts of the world, disability and the trafficking of children.

5. Jammu and Kashmir Council for Human Rights

Special, 2001

I. Introduction

During the reporting period, the Jammu and Kashmir Council for Human Rights continued its work in furtherance of United Nations activities, in accordance with the aims of the Council. Following the severe earthquake in October 2005 in the territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the organization rushed truckloads of humanitarian and medical aid to the victims. It also set up a conference call telephone facility via London for victims of the divided families living on both sides of the line of control so that surviving members of divided families could communicate with each other.

In furtherance of the Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners, the Council continued to advocate for the humanization of criminal justice and the protection of the human rights of prisoners in the three administrations of Jammu and Kashmir, India, Pakistan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and many other countries, either on its own or in cooperation with other non-governmental organizations and civil society institutions.

The Council discussed the deportation of foreign imams and the question of justice in war with the Government of Great Britain in August 2005 and continued to advocate for the individual rights of imams and their families.

Based on the principle of respect for the right to life, the Council continued to oppose capital punishment as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. It also continued to support resolution 1997/12 of the Commission on Human Rights, in which the Commission calls on all States that have not yet abolished the death penalty "to consider suspending executions, with a view to completely abolishing the death penalty".

In furtherance of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the Council arranged a one-day conference on Muslims and the question of terrorism' in London in 2005. It urged the government to make London and other parts of the country safer, in partnership with the Muslim community, and to avoid making any community a scapegoat.

Pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/35, which states that an independent and impartial judiciary and an independent legal profession are essential prerequisites for the protection of human rights and for ensuring that there is no discrimination in the administration of justice, the Council supported the civil society movement for the independence of the judiciary in Pakistan and the Pakistani-administered part of Kashmir. It also facilitated, in November 2007, meetings between legal representatives and the office of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva. It participated in various sessions of the Human Rights Council in Geneva and made written and oral contributions.

The Council continued to oppose the use of violence in Jammu and Kashmir and to support the right to participate in elections. It also worked to promote reconciliation and political interaction among the three administrations of Jammu and Kashmir. It

cooperated with various national and international human rights institutions including, inter alia, the National Human Rights Commission of India, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, the United States Institute of Peace and Amnesty International.

The Council campaigned actively against torture and inhumane and degrading treatment and provided medical, humanitarian and psychological support to victims of torture and their families. It also assisted persons from Jammu and Kashmir in applying for political asylum by advocating for the speedy processing of their applications.

In accordance with the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials, the Council protested against the use of arbitrary force against the people who marched from Srinagar (India-administered Kashmir) to Muzaffarabad (Pakistan-administered Kashmir) on 11 August 2008, and the subsequent loss of life. It continued to campaign in favour of the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials which states that law enforcement agencies should be representative of and responsive and accountable to the community as a whole. It highlighted that it is the duty of a Government to adequately train its police and other agencies to assess when and where to fire a gun and that the power to carry arms brings with it an enormous responsibility to use them legitimately.

The Council reminded the Government of India and the State Government of their obligations under paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 47 (1948), which states that "there will be freedom of the press, speech and assembly and freedom of travel in the State, including freedom of lawful entry and exit" for the people of the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

6. Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

The aims and purposes of the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development have remained the same, as has its main course of action. The Office is a non-profit federation of Mediterranean non-governmental organizations for the environment and development that acts as a technical and political platform for the presentation of views and intervention of non-governmental organizations in the Mediterranean. In cooperation with governments, international organizations and other socio-economic partners, it plays an active role in the protection of the Mediterranean environment and cultural heritage and in the promotion of the sustainable development of the Mediterranean region.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

On the occasion of the sixteenth meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Office co-hosted a side event on addressing climate change adaptation challenges in the Mediterranean, with approximately 60 participants from Mediterranean countries, major international organizations, the European Commission and civil society.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The Office maintained close contact with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the coordinating unit for the Programme's Mediterranean Action Plan for the Barcelona Convention. During the reporting period, it attended and contributed to a large number of meetings, including: (a) the fifth meeting on reporting under the Barcelona Convention, Rabat, June 2005; (b) a meeting to review the long-term implementation of national action plans to address pollution from land-based activities, Tirana, June 2006; (c) the third meeting of the working group of experts designated by the contracting parties to the draft protocol on integrated coastal zone management in the Mediterranean, Loutraki, Greece, February 2007; (d) the third regional workshop on water and sustainable development in the Mediterranean, Zaragoza, Spain, March 2007; (e) the sixteenth ordinary meeting of the contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention, Almeria, Spain, January 2008.

In addition to these activities, the Office remained actively involved in the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development which, in the period 2005-2008, finalized and began implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development. With the support of the Global Environment Facility and the European Commission, the Office helped to organize a Mediterranean multi-stakeholder forum on the protection of the Mediterranean Sea from land-based pollution in October 2005, the aim of which was to introduce national action plans to Mediterranean civil society actors and facilitate their participation in the implementation process.

With the support and partial funding of UNEP, the Office and two other non-governmental organizations have been conducting a "Keep the Mediterranean Litter Free" campaign since 2006. The related poster was published in all Mediterranean languages, as was a set of guidelines for all the stakeholders that are directly or indirectly part of the problem (the maritime, tourist and other industries, local and national authorities, non-governmental organizations, etc.). The campaign was also presented at the sixteenth meeting of the contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention. An assessment of the status of marine litter in the Mediterranean, which had been requested by UNEP, was conducted as parted of the preparation of a regional strategy on marine litter. The latter will be made public as a UNEP publication.

The Office and the Arab Network for Environment and Development organized a consultation on sustainable development in Cairo in December 2007, in preparation for a meeting of the Arab Ministers for the Environment. The meeting explored sustainable development trends in the Arab Mediterranean region, country achievements in implementing the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the role of civil society. The participants also discussed climate change and its expected impact on the Arab Mediterranean region, and the role of non-governmental organizations in addressing climate change issues.

C. Initiatives undertaken in support of the internationally agreed development goals

With respect to the Millennium Development Goals and targets, the Office participated in numerous regional and national meetings aimed at alerting the Governments and other stakeholders of the region that the targets adopted in Johannesburg urgently require concerted action.

To help to achieve universal primary education (Goal 2), the Office participated in expert groups on the drafting, implementation and monitoring of the Economic Commission for Europe strategy on education for sustainable development.

The Office undertook a number of actions to ensure environmental sustainability (Goal 7), including the coordination of the Mediterranean educational initiative for environment and sustainability, which facilitates a network of over 2,600 educators and non-governmental organizations working on environmental protection and sustainable development; the publication and distribution of more than 12,000 copies of educational materials in view of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014) and the organization of more than 24 national and international seminars for educators in the Mediterranean, using those materials; the promotion of education for sustainable consumption in the

Mediterranean; and active participation in the Mediterranean component of the European Union Water Initiative, a key contribution to the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

D. Activities in line with the implementation of Agenda 21

The Office made a persistent effort to urge Mediterranean countries to adhere to principle 10 of Agenda 21 and to consider acceding to the Aarhus Convention establishing domestic regimes that provide for public access to environmental information, participation in decision-making and access to justice.